



HOLYOKE

# DRAGON TIMES

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## What does eLearning Look like for us?

By Elly Brown

### Stories from the front-lines.

HOLYOKE CO- As we all know, life can take many unexpected turns. One of which is the cancellation of many public gatherings-- including schools-- due to the ongoing threat of the COVID-19 outbreak. Thankfully, we have the privilege of completing this school year via online. Although at times, taking a curriculum that has been designed for a traditional classroom setting to learn solely at home can feel as clunky as dribbling a flat basketball. However, the Holyoke School has done wonders making this transition easier for students to handle. So, I thought I could pitch in with some helpful tips and tricks I have used during my years of experience of doing school at home, to hopefully help out with the unexpectedness of this all. My first word of advice is to limit all distractions while doing schoolwork. I have noticed I learn best if I'm working in a quiet place, without the presence of my phone, to limit any interference while learning. I usually work in my room, with my cat, because it seems to improve my focus. For some people, moving to different areas throughout the day helps them, because it is similar to going to different classrooms for different subjects. My second tip is to keep a steady schedule. This includes planning out the school week in advance. Personally, I keep a schedule with an academic planner. Not only does a schedule reduce the amount of decisions I have to make in a day, but it also increases my endurance and enables me to see my accomplishments long-term. My third tip would be to *always* carry through with assignments. No matter how much you would rather do something else, it always pays off to follow through with your academic commitments. Give yourself confidence by setting goals during this time and reach them. My last tip is to stay healthy in mind and in body. Make sure you are making healthy habits with eating. I've noticed if I eat unhealthy food during a school day, my focus can be thrown off. Also, give yourself reasonable breaks for your mind to regain stamina to finish the school day. None of this has been easy for any of us, but if we all do our part by staying safely indoors and staying healthy, we can get through this. I hope that my advice will help the students in Holyoke so we can still grow our educational strength during these times of unprecedented uncertainty.

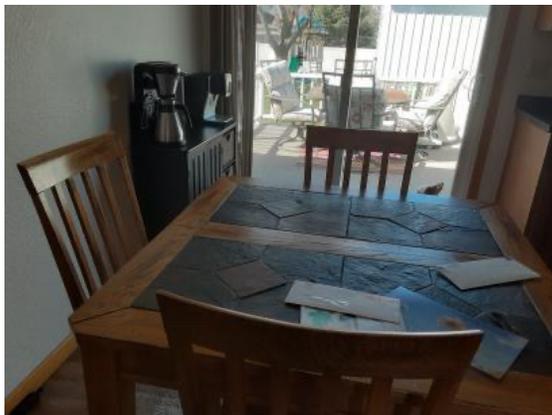
# Sawyer Sigler



HOLYOKE CO- It has been a hard time for everyone. eLearning is going to be difficult for the first few days or maybe the first week or two. Teachers are new at eLearning too, so don't feel alone. With eLearning, some classes might be difficult and crazy to do at home, and don't be afraid to email your teachers, a student, or use Zoom. My experience with eLearning so far is great. The best place for me to work is at the dining table because I can see outside, and hangout with my little brother while he does preschool. It was a little stressful at the beginning because I was worried that I was going to do the assignment wrong, or not even understand it at all. I took my time and asked my mom, and teachers questions when I was stuck. With eLearning teachers are still with you and there to help, even if it doesn't feel like they are. All the teachers are trying to find and use the best ways to help you and your peers; They are only a few key strokes away. For my classes, I did the work the day it came out (Monday) and most of my teachers did not assign anything until Wednesday so everyone was in the same spot. We all want you to know that you are not alone at this time, there are a lot of people you can talk to and ask questions, whether it is a teacher, a student, or a parent. Now is the time we need each other more than ever.

# Karlie Martin

HOLYOKE CO- Have you ever wondered what homeschooling would feel like? Well I did and now I get to experience it! To be honest, at first I wasn't sure I would like to do school online. Lets just say it's a lot different then sitting in a classroom with all of your classmates. I have been working at my kitchen table, my chair in my living room, and my bedroom. I like to be comfortable when I work. I don't know if I like it better than a normal classroom or not. It is hard to tell with only

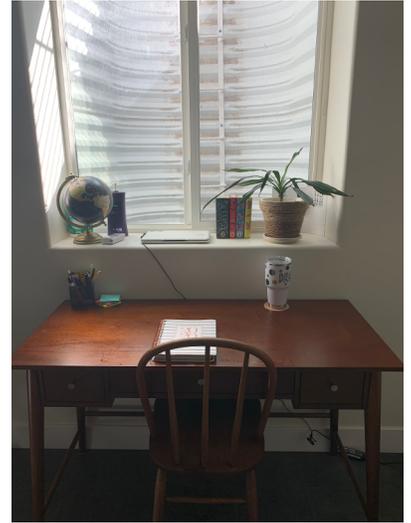


being a few days into this new lifestyle. I am liking how I get to sleep in a little longer and I get to spend a lot more time with my family, which can be a good or a bad thing. I think the more I get used to it, the better I will like it. This has been a big change that none of us ever thought would happen. I wish we could have had a heads up this was going to happen so we could have been better prepared. It's going to be hard with teachers not there to tell us when things are due or telling us to get back on

task again. We are all new at this so don't feel bad if you are having problems because we all are! Don't forget that you can ask your teachers anything!

# Katelyn Kropp

HOLYOKE CO- Because of the obstacles COVID-19 everyone has had to overcome, we will be doing eLearning for the next couple of weeks. This is a dramatic change for a lot of people including myself. I have never done virtual learning. It is an adjustment. Our teachers are being very good to us. They are very understanding of the situation. I can honestly say that I was very worried our teachers would expect us to catch on right away. One of the reasons I feel so calm about the situation is because our teachers are giving off such a flexible, calm, relaxed energy that is coming back on us students. I am very thankful for their patience with us. One of the things that are helping me stay focused and on track is sticking to my regular class schedule. It makes it feel more like a school routine and it's just better for me that way. It's very different from physical sitting in a classroom engaging with a teacher, but over some, it will become easier for all of us. Some other things that I have done to benefit myself, is have a quiet workspace where I am out of the way of the siblings and parents. I currently have a desk set up near a window, this is just more natural and helps me stay focused.



# Isaiah Rueter

By Isaiah Rueter

HOLYOKE CO- E learning hits Holyoke right in the face. Due to Covid-19, all Holyoke school classes are now online. It is not hard, its just very different for us students. My workspace consists of me with my computer sitting on the couch. It is starting to be easier for me to start getting motivated everyday. It is very different than being in class with a teacher to help and ask questions whenever you need it . The teachers are trying their hardest for this to work out for us and to complete our work. The teachers have office hours where you can contact them. The teachers have given their phone numbers to students if they need to talk. PLEASE be respectful of the teachers personal life and don't not call before 8:00am and 8:00pm that is common courtesy. If you get overwhelmed it is easier just do a little at a time until you complete all your work. E learning will take some time to adjust too. If everyone can set their mind to it, it will be alright and everyone will succeed. It will take some time but, we will make it out of this pandemic. Remember to wash your hands and stay home if you are sick. We have big issues with that STAY AT HOME. It may not be the most fun but you just may be saving a life. So please STAY AT HOME.



# Grace Whisenhunt

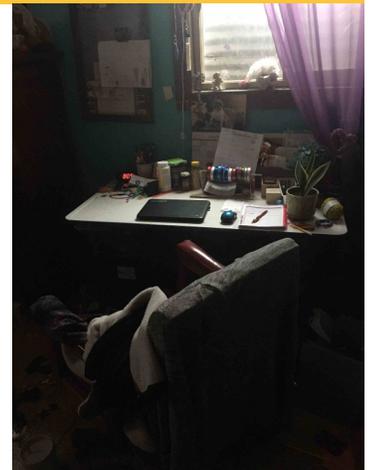
By Grace Whisenhunt

HOLYOKE CO- Even though learning online is new and difficult for everyone, I'm sure there are introverts like me who don't miss having to talk to people. I'm sure other people may not miss being at school that much, either. I know I love being away from all the people who tend to irritate me more than others. However, I do miss some of the people who make me feel better about being at school. I'm positive that most people can relate to this. Even if you don't like someone, it's kind of hard to not miss them. Your brain is used to seeing them almost every day, and it's difficult to change your routine so quickly. There are several struggles that go along with this, though. An example is, now that we're home, things we like doing more can easily distract anyone. As a person who gets distracted easily, I can say school's harder outside of a classroom. While learning at home might be a pain, it could also help your growth as a person. Now that you can get your work done early, you might be able to get around to doing important things around the house. I know that I've gotten a lot done with this extra time to myself. When it comes to the space where I work, I chose the coffee table in my living room. I have created a space where I know I'll get things done. I also set personal items on the table for when I lose my inspiration. That reminds me, now that we are at home, we can have the things that motivate us around the house. This may be listening to your favorite band or artist, or it could even be something you look at that inspires you to do a million tasks in two minutes. In the end, learning from home can seem like torture since you can have nothing to do, but there are still upsides.

# Layna Wear

By Layna Wear

HOLYOKE CO - As you all know we have been quarantined to our own homes because of COVID-19, but we have technology that allows us to communicate with each other without being right next to that person, so we are still going to school, just virtually. Some things that have helped me are: having a dedicated workspace, which is my desk. Here are some things that help me...Being organized, making sure that I have everything I need within an arm's reach. Being flexible, sometimes I have to do something different from what I did before. I listen to non-distracting music, which is just Pandora. Staying hydrated, I have water near me for when I need it. I always have a comfortable chair and I also have a window over my desk, for good lighting. I also get up and move at least once every hour. My sister and I follow schedules, and there are time for breaks and going outside, but we don't have to worry about getting arrested because we live in the country. One of the other things we do is make it fun, everyday we come up with a theme and we dress according to it. Something distracting is my family. After I realize I'm distracted, I acknowledge it and get back to work.



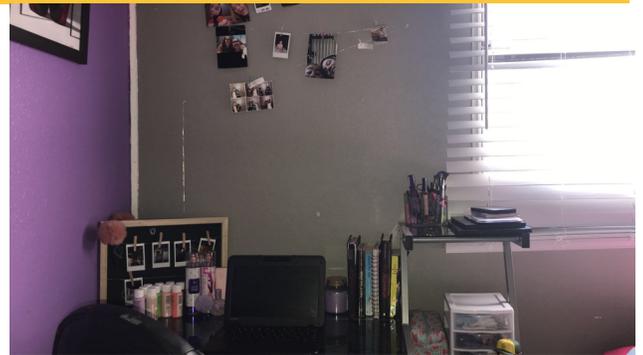
# Emma Sprague

HOLYOKE CO-So as everyone should know, the world is currently being kept under quarantine due to COVID-19. Everyone is very new to this “online learning”, so are the teachers, not only are we learning things and going through different obstacles, so are our teachers. Personally I have no problem with online learning just besides the fact that its different so we have to get used to the new learning techniques and ways of communication. I love to have all this time to be with my family and bond with them, although having a lot of siblings is sometimes a handful. I love having all this time to be with them since we normally don't have much time together. Although some people are not thankful and happy about all this time away from society, I think we should take advantage of it and spend as much time together and with our families as we can. When it comes to friends, everyone, misses seeing their friends, or simply just talking to people that make them happy at all. My workspace right now is either in the dining room with my siblings or in my room. Some people don't realize the dangers and how serious the Coronavirus is, so if you need to go out for anything , like groceries, wash your hands and stay clean before you go.



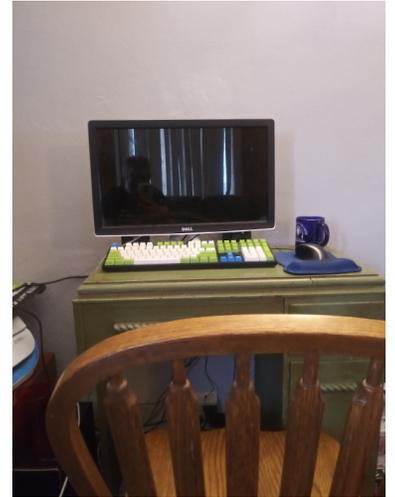
# Dahira Castillo

HOLYOKE CO- As everyone goes into quarantine, schools shut down. But students need education so we've started eLearning! Everyone is new to this and if you're confused about something don't be afraid to ask for help! My experience has been very challenging, but it's not the school work or learning at home instead of a classroom with a teacher, I am a huge procrastinator. I'm always battling myself to put my phone down and start my school work. I work in my room so I don't usually have my phone on watch by my parents. I also like to listen to music so I feel the need to have it close to me as I work. I miss being at school as well as talking with my friends while working but who says I can't do that at home. This time has taught me to appreciate my learning time at school but other than that I have taken advantage of this time to relax and take a break from everything chaotic. Family time for me has been really great. I've gotten an even stronger bond with my family than before! My workspace isn't the most organized but I try to keep it as organized as possible. When I wake up I make sure the teachers haven't posted new assignments and if they have I start them, take a break for breakfast, then finish. I also check at night before going to bed just to make sure I have finished all my work.



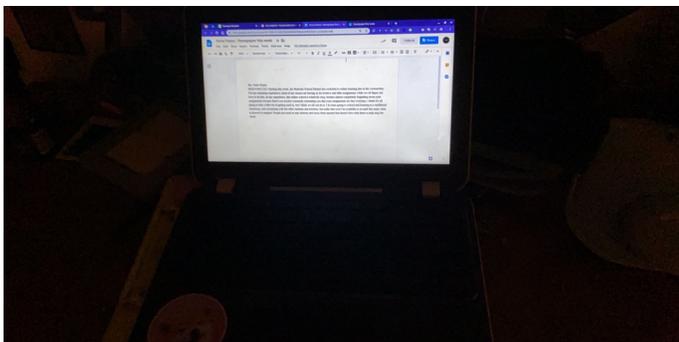
## Ben Kleve

HOLYOKECO- This past week has been an adventure for the teachers and the students. With the school shut down to prevent spread of the COVID-19 pandemic we have all had to adjust our perspective on what life is going to look like for the next month or so. My experience with E-learning is that the teachers need to assign more work because I have had my work when it was assigned Monday and that has left me the rest of the week to do nothing. I look forward to teachers and the school district getting comfortable with eLearning so I can expand my knowledge and learn more at a quicker pace. My workspace is flexible as long as I have internet. As I am writing this I am on the couch and my computer is on my lap., but I have sat at my desk in my room or even outside in the garden when I was doing school work. E-learning is a new adventure for all of us and the teachers. I am skeptical that we will be back in the school building this school year. ELearning may be here for the foreseeable future. I really want to go back to school in the fall so I would appreciate if everyone would follow the governor's orders and STAY AT HOME! If we all do our part we will move pass this pandemic.



## Anna Hayes

HOLYOKE CO- Starting this week, the Holyoke School District has switched to online learning due to the coronavirus. For my elearning experience, most of my classes are having us do reviews and little assignments while we all figure out how to do this. In my experience, this online school is relatively easy, besides almost completely forgetting about your assignments because there's no teacher constantly reminding you that your assignments are due everyday. I think it's all going to take a little bit of getting used to, but I think we all can do it. I do miss going to school and learning in a traditional classroom, and socializing with the other students and teachers, but sadly that



won't be available to us until this nasty virus is slowed or stopped. People just need to stay indoors and away from anyone that doesn't live with them to help stop the virus! We all just need to keep our hopes up that things will go back to normal soon and the fact that we're living through a major event in history right now. We can do this!