

Kimberly High School Teachers -

2. How does the remote day benefit you?

ID Responses

- 1 I'm able to catch up with lesson planning, grading, giving extra, needed help to students, and keep me sane.
 - 2 It allows me to stay on top of grading and provide a different style of learning and assignment for students.
 - 3 I am able to have the time to get all of my course material available to all students both remotely and in-person. Also students who have fallen behind have the opportunity to come in and get one on one help and get caught up.
 - 4 I am able to finish a lot of grading, and make videos when I need to. I am also able to collaborate with those teachers who are in the building, which is only a few. I would not say that the benefits are even close to outweighing the hardships caused by the remote day.
 - 5 It allows me to better plan for the upcoming weeks and it allows me to put material in front of students in different ways to further advance their learning. I am also able to meet with students one on one and provide more individual support without the distraction of other students and the normal day schedule.
 - 6 It allow me time to create meaningful online instruction and assessments.
 - 7 It gives me a day that I'm not putting out fires, to get many things done.
 - 8 The most beneficial thing for me has been the mental health aspect of the remote day. Covid is stressful, creating space away from large groups of people has been extremely helpful. Students also appreciate the time away from the classroom environment.
 - 9 I guess for the purposes that they were intended to. Although I don't think they are as beneficial for a subject like mine, fitness.
 - 10 Offers more time to grade and to put lesson plans on to Canvas
 - 11 I was able to plan out my lessons for the next week. I was able to bring in some students to catch up on work and makeup tests. This time helped me plan and prepare better and was very helpful for me personally. This day allows me to grade bigger projects and writing assignments as well.
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- 12 I have been able to keep up on grading and planning much better than in years past. It has also allowed us to meet together as departments. There have been opportunities, albeit rare, to work with students one-on-one during this time.
- 13 The remote day helps me in numerous ways. I have the chance to get caught up on grading, work in my classroom without the limitations that a normal school day brings, and with those two benefits alone it helps me feel less stressed, less overwhelmed with the amount of work we do, and gives me time to work on personal goals to higher my teaching credentials. (Recertification/working towards other certifications). I feel overall that student and teacher mental health is at an all time high with this new schedule...or at least reaching that point after dealing with quarantine, a pandemic, and the back and forth of color code changes that were dealt with throughout this time. I am very thankful that we are in school. There are so many around us that are still home doing solely remote learning and I feel glad that we have found a solution to help us move forward. But now working a full 5 day week and a 4 day week with one remote day....I would pick the 4 day week every single time. It has been a game changer. I not only have time to get everything ready for the school week, but I can recharge my batteries to be ready for the following week.
- 14 I gives me more flexibility in how I address curriculum and allows me time to address individual students that require help.
- 15 Students who were struggling have come in on Friday for one on one help. This was not possible before with a 5 day week. I am better prepared for the upcoming week, which makes my class run smoother Monday thru Thursday. I have averaged 80%+ participation for online Friday quizzes and activities.
- 16 It does allow for me to get caught up on all of the students submissions on Canvas/emails/in person that has been all over the place this year. Having time to set up all the online material for the upcoming week has been appreciated. There have been a handful of students who do take advantage of coming into the school and working on make-up/retakes etc. since I am here in the building.
- 17 The last question is probably No for the students, but a resounding YES for the teachers. Without the remote Friday it would be very difficult for the teachers to keep up with teaching in the classroom all day and then teaching remotely either during their prep, or after school hours. It is difficult anyway and without the remote Friday it would be nearly impossible for teachers with multiple different classes.
- 18 It gave me more time to mange the online component included in the class.
- 19 I am not worried about how it benefits me, I have found that is negative for "average" students.
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ID Responses

20 It gives me an opportunity to teach new sports and activities that we don't have the equipment for. I can also use it for more reading and writing which I don't incorporate as much as I would like because I want to get in as much movement as possible when I have the students in my class. It gives me another day to prepare and get ready for the upcoming week.

21 I truly appreciate a day that allows a bit more decompression. Even though I often come into the building to work, being able to come in a bit later and go to the bathroom on my own schedule makes a world of difference to my mental rejuvenation for the week ahead. I have truly appreciated the time to meet with fellow staff members about students of concern. RTI and Department meetings on these days have helped me feel connected and helped us all brainstorm on how to best help students (and staff) who are struggling. These Fridays have felt much like an opportunity for self-care that isn't available on our tightly timed schedules during the rest of the week. Also, remote Fridays have allowed me chunks of time for concentrated grading that I don't get when trying to prep, plan, and grade during limited prep periods the rest of the week.

22 It gives me time to meet with peers to collaborate, I can work on RTI materials, I can contact home during the day for students, and students have time to catch up on work that they aren't doing at home during school days.

23 It gives me time to prepare quality lessons and assessments for my students online learning. I am able to put everything on Canvas to benefit students that are absent or need review of a lesson. It gives me time to meet via Teams with my peers to discuss students that are struggling. It gives me time and the opportunity to pull in students for one on one help when needed. It gives students the opportunity to get a understanding of remote learning that will help them in their future.

24 It allows flexibility in the schedule.

25 It gives me time to meet with other teachers that isn't available during school hours. I also feel that I could get more time to grade assignments.

3. What challenges and hardships does the remote day create for you?

ID Responses

1 0 hardships, only benefits.

ID Responses

2 Some students think of it as a day off and don't log on or work.

3 At first the students and I had to get used to doing the material on-line but now that we are used to it, it has been a huge benefit for me and my students to learn how to teach and learn on-line and in person.

4 I have low levels of participation, which causes me to have to reteach content, or leave students behind (this is generally what has been happening, but the kids don't respond to the negative consequences of not doing the work. I have lost so much face to face time that I find it harder to make meaningful connections with my students. While there are a lot of potential benefits, from a remote day, it requires that all stakeholders (especially the students) be committed, which they have not, so now I feel like I am doing a lot of work that is unvalued and I am less likely to put my best work out there for a remote day. Honestly, it hasn't been good for my mental health and sense of self worth.

5 Student engagement and accountability on the remote days are a struggle for the middle cut of my students. My top tier students engage and gain from it and my bottom end students I can help more but the majority in the middle fall behind because they refuse to attempt the work.

6 None.

7 None

8 The biggest challenge has been getting students to complete the online work. There are students who don't view Fridays as a school day. I believe that the skills they learn online are essential skills, that they will need in college and in the workforce, eliminating these would be a mistake. However, a transformation of the culture as parents and students view online learning is also important to the success of these days. I don't like the way question 4 is written. It is too simple a question for a complex topic. Are students benefiting as much as they could from an online environment right now? No. Will they as we become better at it and students realize this is not a passing fad? Yes. We are living in a new world where remote everything will now be a regular part of our daily lives and if we abandon teaching students how to navigate it we will suffer more later. I know it is painful now, but these are growing pains, we will figure it out and it will become a very beneficial part of their learning and growth. We just need more time.

9 Hard to do fitness workouts remotely and hold kids accountable.

10 students do not utilize their time at home to log on to Canvas and get their work done; they have told me that if they are not at school, then they do not do the work at home. I have more F's in [REDACTED] than any other year in the [REDACTED] I have been teaching here at the high

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school...playing "catch up" with students takes up most of my time now...furthermore, I am not getting as much content covered in class, especially since English is only every other Friday

11 Many students do not do their classwork on Virtual Fridays. Students use this as a day off and don't log on to Canvas to complete their work. Therefore, when I assign an assignment on Virtual Friday, I expect them to have learned the material that day. However, when they come to class on Monday/Tuesday, they haven't completed the work, then I have to reteach the material from that Virtual Friday. I still hold them accountable for the Friday work, but I can't move on without assessing and teaching them properly. Many students fall behind academically because they don't complete their work. Students who struggle in school need to come in this day, rather than try to do it all online. We need to reconfigure the day if we are to continue to do it this way. Struggling students need face-to-face help, and this could be a great day to do it, as well as continue to teach students online that day, but expectations need to be higher.

12 Students are not logging in to do work. We are not getting through as much content as we have in the past. I would be in favor of a remote day if we could get better participation.

13 So far it hasn't created any hardships or challenges.

14 The hardest part was adjusting the schedule and assignments to assure students receive the required curriculum. Now that students understand the schedule things should run more smoothly the second semester.

15 I would probably cover a little more material during a 5 day week.

16 The biggest issue for me is the lack of participation from the students on the virtual days that they are supposed to be working on a lesson that I have provided. Either they don't attempt it at all, or they go straight to the assignment without any instructions or background (basically not learning from my videos/examples/practice problems). When they come to class the next period, maybe 15% have learned the material on my Canvas provided instruction and the other 85% haven't bothered to look at it, so we spend more precious time in class going over what they refused to do. I have learned a lot about how to instruct remotely

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and it has been a big learning curve. Things are getting better on my end but I don't think the students feel that Fridays are a school day!

17 Many of the students do not take advantage of the additional learning that could take place during the remote Fridays. I have to prepare multiple assignments for the remote Fridays because I teach multiple classes and I want the remote assignments to be useful to the students and to follow what we are doing in class.

18 I have less than 50% of my students that actually login and do the assignments.

19 Prepping for assignments. Average students can not excel under this model.

20 Some kids aren't doing well in my class because they won't do the assignments on virtual days.

21 My students were initially not good about submitting their work on these days. However, I have seen steady improvement as they have realized that they will be consistently held accountable for the work assigned on these days. Many of them are getting much better about getting up and getting on. Most complete their work before noon to try to earn some free time for rejuvenation too.

22 Sometimes students don't log in, but I have found that the kids who would otherwise do work in school still work on Fridays, and students who don't work at school still don't work at home.

23 None it is very beneficial.

24 Many kids do not do the work.

25 It is difficult to get childcare if I want to solely focus on school work. I also struggle to get work from students turned in on time. So, I either extend due dates and they get it done after I repeatedly remind them or I only have it open for the day it's assigned and give out a lot of 0's.
