

## Kimberly Middle School Teachers -

### 2. How does the remote day benefit you?

ID	Responses
1	They give me a day to put things on-line and focus on students who are falling behind.
2	I have learned better skills to teaching online. Last Spring was as learning curve. After learning so much about teaching online, this year has been more successful. I would like to continue practicing what I have learned.
3	Helps me strengthen my knowledge and students knowledge on Canvas, which is a needed resource. Before the pandemic our knowledge on canvas was limited and weak. This has helped me navigate our resources better within the class and outside the classroom environment. Students who were absent or traveled also had an opportunity to catch up on missed school work because everything was offered on-line.
4	It allows me to continue to improve my online teaching experience and makes me focus on the most important skills for my students. I feel like this year has made me cut the fluff in my curriculum and focus specifically on reading, writing, and listening (speaking comes in the face-to-face days). I have had to be very intentional in thinking about how I can continue my units to include that remote learning day and honestly, I feel like this year is one of my best years that include 21st Century learning skills. I also see an increase in my students' writing skills because we are doing more of it. Sometimes the classroom can get distracting for students to write, and with the remote day, they have a day to be quiet, away from their peers, and do their best work. Over the summer my family and I built a nice remote teaching room/library for me to work and I enjoy this time at home where I can grade and plan without interruptions. The remote day has been a pleasant surprise and a blessing to me as a teacher.
5	Gives me opportunity to improve my technology skills, explore learnt apps. Gives me time to catch up, answer emails, analyze data, lesson plan, grade papers, put assignments on canvas, breathe!!!
6	It has made it easier for me to make appointments later in the afternoon for doctor/dentist/eye without missing in class time. I have enjoyed the day to do grading and lesson prep
7	It allows me to see how well the students are retaining the information they are learning during the week. It also helps me get caught up on grading while still helping my students with any questions they have.

**ID Responses**

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8 A couple things that really benefit me. First, I like the flexibility of being able to work remotely. I am a fan of working from home when possible. Secondly, I like being able to deliver a lesson one time to a larger group, this allows me more time for grading, preparing, etc.

9 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.

10 Makes me a better teacher. I am able to spend time focusing on individual students that I would not have the time to do otherwise.

11 A remote day benefits me by giving me time to prepare and plan for my classes.

12 When it is not my day to provide the remote learning experience, remote Friday provides me time to be working on the content required for that day, as well as the content required for the rest of the week for students who are out sick. We provide all work on Canvas for students who are missing days throughout the week as well as remote Friday instruction. Having the time to create instruction for both scenarios has been key.

13 I believe it has decreased my exposure to Covid and given me the opportunity to create quality digital content for my students. Additionally, we've (my students and I) had the opportunity to hold live Team meetings. I am able to conduct these short meetings, learning how to make them productive and still have the safety net of 4 day face to face instruction.

14 In my personal situation of transitioning from teacher to administration, it gives me one day a week to focus on my administrative duties without having to hire a substitute. Once the online lessons are up, they can be used again, enriched, or modified with much less effort. So, in subsequent years, online Fridays could potentially be richer curriculum and be less time consuming.

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**ID Responses**

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- 15 As a part time teacher who works on A days only, it has been an incredible blessing to me. I love that my schedule is so predictable that I work on Mondays and Wednesdays and grading and such on Fridays, instead of some weeks it's MWF and sometimes it's TTh. It makes it so much easier to plan my life.
- 16 It's afforded me the time to learn and utilize technologies that I'd previously never used such as Microsoft Whiteboard and Teams. I typically do much of my grading for the week during my office hours in the time between student Teams meetings. It's been a huge stress relief to have Remote Fridays for me personally.
- 17 I am given the time to complete library goals that wouldn't ordinarily be completed. Without adult aides during the days, it is just me to complete everything that needs done in the library, plus prep and teach a class each day. Remote Fridays allow me the time to prep and grade for my class, and to complete those library goals that wouldn't normally be completed.
- 18 Since I am student services, it gives me time to work on paperwork (documentation, 504, IDLA) that I have been unable to during the first four days. Both face to face student issues and the associated paperwork has increased this year, so Friday has been a huge help.
- 19 allows me to grow in my technology skills and connect with my students away from school
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**3. What challenges and hardships does the remote day create for you?**

**ID Responses**

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- 1 There are a few students don't take them seriously.
- 2 First semester, I had to create new assignments for online learning. This took more research, time, and planning. Going into the second semester will be easier since the assignments have been created.
- 3 Not all students participated and teaching was limited.
- 4 I'm sad that about 15-20% of my students don't participate and miss out on their learning and that's something that we will need to figure out. I like the idea that the remote day may be a time where those students, who have taken it on themselves that it's their free day, will have to come into school and work. We could alternate the staff on those days - like on a Red Remote Day, those teachers who have classes online (English, Social Studies, Health/Nutrition), come to the school to help those
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**ID Responses**

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students who need help with their assignments. On the White Remote Day, that's a great time for teachers like me to get grading (lots of essays) and lesson planning done. It has not been a hardship to me personally and I enjoy it. We just need to figure out how to help those kids who never do their remote day work.

5 Some students who really need the help don't reach out, so I feel like I am not doing what I need for them.

6 It has made it more difficult to get through the curriculum at the same pace

7 Trying to teach remotely and help my own 3 boys with their remote work can be a little challenging when all 4 of us need the computer at the same time.

8 Really, no hardships for me. I like the format of our remote learning.

9 No challenges or hardships

10 Students not logging on, but most often these are students that don't turn in work when we are at school.

11 1. Student are at the mercies of their parents schedules on a remote day and because of this it creates added tension between teachers, parents and students. (Parents take a long weekend and student can not complete work on the Friday.) 2. Students are not mature enough and/or responsible enough for a remote day (Perhaps parents and teachers as well) 3. Frustration knowing that as a core teacher I am working hard and other teachers are not required to do little or no work on these days. 4. Expectations do not match, in most cases. (Admin to teacher, teacher to student, student to parent, and parent to all of them) 5. Less time for face-to-face instruction 6. Less time to build relationships with students and staff 7. Does not work for students with special needs - not just IEP students 8. Technology

12 There is definite added work to get the content ready, but as I said the Friday that we are not teaching allows us good opportunity to have the time to do it. Also, at first the remote Friday content was starting to build a gap between learners--between those who would do the work, and those who would not. This made things harder in the classroom the following week. I have gotten smarter about the work assigned and the timing of it so that while it is still rigorous and necessary work to what we do in the classroom, it doesn't create as wide of a gap. Since there is no other place to write this I am going to add it here: I have heard of parents complaining that they don't think remote Friday is valuable. I have a High School student and several kids in college. Learning remotely is the world we live in now a days, whether dual enrollment, flipped classroom, or remote situations due to pandemics. It is just a part of life now. Helping our children learn to navigate their own reality is very important

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**ID Responses**

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in my opinion. Yes it puts more responsibility on parents, but this is an opportunity for them to help set a foundation for their child that will serve them the rest of their lives. I appreciate the dedicated teachers at the High School who provide work for my daughter to keep going in these times. She does the work. She is learning, she is growing. There are times that greater learning happens outside the classroom than in. It has definitely been a taxing struggle for teachers to adapt to, and we still have students that despite our every effort will not buy in and do the work and that is an issue to continue to address. I have neighbors who have children with students in Boise area districts that are so disappointed with how things have been handled there and they applaud how Kimberly has handled things during these times.

13 I can't really think of personal challenges. I do see that some students are missing instructional time. I'd like to see these students report to the buildings.

14 Creating an online assignment is a completely different type of learning th and teaching than an in-class learning is usually requires many hours of preparation, BUT with that said--this is the first year. The positive side of this argument is that I think it is good for our students to learn to be more independent and have to do some learning on their own.

15 I get less face time with the students because I only get 2 days/week with the kids. I wish electives could be part of the Friday online rotation, too. It can sometimes be stressful with all of the kids home plus my husband and I both trying to work from home.

16 Not being face-to-face with students to completely troubleshoot any problems they may have regarding the Math material.

17 Nothing!

18 None at this time. I also have two students in high school of my own, and they both quite enjoy remote Friday. Overall, I think it is a real benefit for them to prepare them for college, where even face-to-face classes will probably have some remote content.

19 some of my students choose not to do it

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