

Positive Lessons from a Pandemic

The past 22 months of living through a pandemic has caused our society to change permanently. While it has been challenging, not all the changes have been negative. Our students have been hit with many disappointments, but they have also learned valuable lessons. They have learned to adapt, be more tolerant of change, become resilient and creative. They are more independent, and appreciative of what they do have. They have made the most of their opportunities and can teach many of us adults how to be grateful and accepting.

Our schools have become their safe havens and lifelines more than ever. While keeping our students safe has always been a top priority, it has become even more important during the pandemic. Many of the safety protocols have made a positive impact and will last long past the pandemic. Simple details such as hand washing, and frequent cleaning of high use areas have helped to reduce many of the common illnesses. Attention to air quality has produced heightened awareness of ventilation practices and maintenance in schools. It is important to note that all BPSD schools have air exchange systems that are up to code and in keeping with industry standards. BPSD has been proactive in maintaining our schools which has enhanced the safety of our students prior to and during the pandemic.

Another proactive and positive measure BPSD has done in previous years that made the pandemic experience easier for students was our commitment to providing fast and reliable internet service and high quality wireless capabilities to our schools. This paired with providing a far more robust and portable environment to our students through the addition of many portable devices. While there was a sharp learning curve with remote learning, it wasn't an insurmountable one. Our students and staff accessed a variety of digital platforms and further developed another important skill required in today's world.

These positive changes are here to stay and will make our schools safer places for the future. It is worth noting that these changes were decided by the local administration that used funds to improve our community schools before the pandemic. Our local board and administration will continue to learn important lessons and implement changes to make our schools safe for our students.