

## Miss Rona

After a Spring Break for the ages, students of MHS are starting to file their way back into the doors of the school. Well, at least some of them will be making their way back to the school. One of the many side effects of the mighty rona is that students were given the choice of continuing their academic study online, or coming back to the school we all know and love. This has obviously changed the way MHS will look this year.

The effects of Covid-19 in the world of education is unreal. Schools of all levels across the country have had to make some big decisions to help stop the spread of this virus within their schools. This of course includes our very own Monticello High School. The San Juan School District decided that the best way that we can help combat this virus was to offer students three options. In person schooling, online schooling, or a hybrid between the two. The vast majority of MHS students chose to return to school. This however, does not mean that everything is back to normal. Students and teachers are required to wear protective face masks at all times. Also, most of the courses are completely online. These dramatic changes have really shaken up how things are done at MHS for students and teachers. When Mrs. Boyle was asked about the changes and challenges of returning to school in these conditions, she said, “I was super excited to have students back in the classroom, I was a little worried about the masks, but students seemed to have adjusted nicely”. She also stated her frustration with the fact that we can’t have assemblies, “I just don't understand why we can have sports, but we are unable to socially distance and have assemblies”. While she does have some concerns and frustrations, for the most part Mrs. Boyle is just happy to see students and teachers at school and hopes we can keep it that way.

The same excitement can't be said for many of the students at MHS. Students like Elli Neilson were not looking forward to the start of the school year. When asked if she was looking forward to school and how it has gone so far, she responded saying, "No, but it has been pretty ok. Except the wearing masks part. I hate wearing masks". The masks have seemed to be a pretty big issue for some of the students at MHS. What seems like a pretty small thing can definitely get annoying after a while. It also has become an obstacle for teachers. Many students have heard their teachers complain about how hard it is to talk non-stop with a piece of cloth over their mouth. Once again, it seems like a small thing but it has definitely caused some heartache with the teachers and students of Monticello High School.

Now to possibly the biggest change this virus has caused, the at home students. Even though the large majority of the MHS student body is being educated in the building, there still is definitely a noticeable difference with the missing students. The classes seem smaller, the school seems quieter, and the overall vibe is just off.

These fears and concerns have definitely caused some uneasiness heading into this next school year. No one really knows what's in store for the students and teachers here at MHS. The things could get better and continue to get more and more normal, but things could also definitely get worse just as easy. Despite this scary reality, the majority seems to just be excited to go back to school and make it as normal as possible. There's no telling how "normal" it can get, or how long it'll even last, but there still seems to be an overall optimistic outlook on this next school year. So, here's to the 2020-2021 school year. It will surely be one for the history books.

