

Carrie Cuhaci - Planning for Return to School – 9 July 2020

- I have three children, grades 3, 6, and 8.
- Their experiences with online learning were vastly different.
- the 3rd grade experience was brilliant, and I owe this exclusively to the teaching team. They were brilliant. BUT, it amounted to about one hour a day and had to be largely guided by me to explain concepts, review work, etc.
- my 3rd grade child and many of his classmates wanted and needed more, but the teachers were restricted in what they could give. So I then had to spend the rest of the day entertaining him or he would be on devices for 10 hours.
- my 6th grade child had two teachers with very small children and received virtually nothing for three months. Calls were spotty and conducted during hopeful nap times, sometimes once a week, sometimes not at all.
- my 8th grade child had a solid math offering, no science and her French teacher has two disabled children and was rarely available.
- in all cases, my children would do their work and not receive any feedback. They totally lost their motivation to continue. Why do the work if your teacher doesn't have face to face meetings and never marks anything.
- my children all had different art, music and phys Ed teachers that they received nothing from. These teachers were paid 100% and did nothing.
- I am NOT blaming the teachers with toddlers or disabled children who frankly, had it far worse than I. But how are these teachers going to teach this fall if their children have no where to go?
- the amount of time spent on video calls with the class and teacher varied WIDELY within the school. There was no minimum standard set.
- the amount of instruction was virtually non existent.
- school by school differences were also extreme.
- there absolutely needs to be a minimum expectation set for live instruction each day and independent work that far exceeds one hour
- a two day in-class model with three days at home will not work!

*** The private schools got it completely right. They had daily instruction from their teachers for 4-6 hours a day. If the OCDSB goes ahead with any form of online, this is the standard that needs to be achieved. ****