

Should Oak Hills Go Virtual?

By: Emily Lipps

The topic of COVID-19 is very touchy for some people, including school districts. When COVID-19 was at its peak with no vaccine, everything was closed and everyone was stuck at home. Now that COVID-19 has a vaccine, everything should be over, right? No. Not even close. Now with variants coming out everywhere that are resistant to the vaccine, unvaccinated people, and hardly any masks in sight, we are still stuck in the COVID-19 bubble.

Here at Oak Hills High School, we have over 500 students and 30 teachers absent in one day because of sickness, mostly COVID-19 related. That's almost 20% of the students and teachers at the high school. In some of the elementary schools, it's even worse. Schools around us like Cincinnati Public Schools, University of Cincinnati, and Walnut Hills are all virtual as of January 10, 2022. Some will return to in person classes next week, others not until February. With the High amount of students getting Covid, many parents and students are complaining about the lack of safety concerns for students and teachers alike. I spoke with Payton Simonson, a Junior, about what they thought about the current Oak Hills situation.

"I think Oak Hills is avoiding an extremely serious problem as much as possible, despite the inevitable result. At this point all of us have to go virtual, shown by the growing trend of students and teachers being absent due to Covid related issues, such as actually being sick themselves, exposure at home, having kids who go to other schools that are now virtual, and more." This is just one of many students that have similar ideas. Some new information has arisen, There will be an after school meeting on January 11, 2022 to discuss the absence issue throughout Rapid Run Middle School. The meeting will be virtual and include all faculty members. Many students and teachers suspect that we will be going virtual very soon, and they just might be right.

Students and teachers alike hope that the online learning will not be for long, but with 1,204 new cases at the time of writing this, who knows what will happen once we are online, if we are online. Personally, I believe that we should go virtual or at least have a mask mandate in place for Oak Hills School Districts. This should help reduce the spread of the new Omicron variant in the public. If we keep having more and more cases, we might have to cancel some of the fun things planned for this year like prom and sports throughout the year. We don't want to keep spreading the virus to people that are prone to death if they contract the deadly virus. We need a safer place for both our students and teachers and going virtual will be our best bet.