

# FEATURE TEACHER

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### **What is a challenge you have faced teaching in during a pandemic in 2020?**

Time to do everything I want to do. There are only so many hours in a day. I come to work most days around 5 AM and leave at 3:30. I spend countless hours at home trying to put quizzes together and develop engaging lessons. I think this is the nature of the beast and really a result of the number of different preps I have to complete. (No two classes are the same in a given day.)

### **How do you support building a positive and safe online learning environment for your students?**

I strictly use WV State Department issued software to communicate with students and provide them with direct links to the sites I want them to research.

### **Do you have a super awesome success story from 2020?**

Every year I have my students complete a bridge project in AP Physics. I struggled with how to do this because it is always a group project. Instead of trying to lessen that project I changed it. I always launch rockets with my students to study 1-D Motion; however, this year not only did the students launch rockets, but I had them design their own to launch after launching the kits! This has been a huge success and learning opportunity. Several students designed rockets that surpassed the manufactured kits. Others, admittedly, were not as successful; however, the students had to be creative researching different concepts on rocket design and really put themselves out there. Students learned much more than the force analysis I was aiming for them to master!

### **What do you do to encourage online classroom participation?**

I try to make the videos short and sweet; straight to the point. I provide all solutions via pdf so the students can review them on their own. I try to utilize interesting concepts and independent research to encourage the students to go beyond.

### **Parent Communication... What's working for your families?**

I prefer to email parents. I try to give them updates, good and bad, often. I have been toying with putting together a newsletter after break to share some of the things the students have been doing.

### **What methods have been effective in teaching during a pandemic?**

Making remote videos for students to learn content before they come to class then working on labs, projects, problems, etc. I also have utilized the assessment tool on schoology to develop "Quick Quizzes". These are designed for the students to complete in less than 10 minutes. I would rather they look at my content numerous times a day in different ways. I think that is a better way to accomplish my goal of teaching very difficult topics remotely.

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**Share something positive about teaching in 2020.**

I am learning new technologies and methods everyday! This has really challenged me to alter my teaching and become more effective in the limited face-to-face time.