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**feedback** from  
the home front



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Participants 33 ^

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While 100 of the 430 grades 3-5 Kelley School students have chosen to learn remotely from home this fall in view of COVID-19-related concerns and restrictions, school administrators recently reached out to them virtually in so called "Town Hall" meetings on Zoom meeting software to find out how they're doing.

Principal Jeff Hamelinck "met" with fourth graders; Robin Uveges, Newark Central School District Coordinator of Professional Development who is working at Kelley School two days a week with 3rd graders; and Kelley School Administrative Intern and CSE Chairperson Sara McLean with fifth graders.

Students were asked about what software learning tools they are finding most helpful and conversely, most challenging. They were asked about which types of virtual meetings they preferred with their teachers and finally asked what they suggest could make online learning better.

"We thought it was important to learn what our remote learners are thinking and give them a voice," Hamelinck said. "Overall, our students and staff are amazing! We learned much and are reviewing their responses and will make appropriate adjustments, as needed, to enable better ways in which we can learn together."

Like Hamelinck, Uveges found the "Town Hall" meeting with third graders to be fruitful.

"It was really cute and all of them were very engaged and respectful," she said. "A lot of the answers were very positive. Some said they found Zoom or Schoology challenging when it's not working or there is a bad connection. Some said they don't attend office hours meetings with their teachers because they don't need help or their mom helps them. In terms of making

things better, some students said they'd like to Zoom during recess so they can see and chat with their friends. Others said they'd like to start their day earlier than 9 a.m."

McLean said most fifth graders like remote learning.

"Overall, students feel it is going well and teachers have set students up for success to be able to use many different applications/

technology such as *Bitmoji* Classrooms, *Peardeck*, *Zoom*, *One Note* and *iReady* to support their learning," McLean said.

"Students like being at home as they have less transitions, believe it's healthier and like being close to family. The one thing they miss the most is seeing their friends who are attending in person."



Kelley School Principal Jeff Hamelinck

