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**Crowded Halls**

Throughout the school year, the hallways have become extremely crowded. During hybrid, the hallways weren't nearly as bad. With school being 100% now, the hallways have become closer and gave the students less space to socially distance during the passing periods.



*It's unfortunate that we can't maintain social distancing*  
- Addi Steele '21

**The Commons**

Before first period starts, the commons are a popular spot to go and meet with friends. During fifth period the commons is full for study hall. This period is so full that some students are sitting on the ground. Students are also unable to socially distance during this period.



**Switching to In-person**

Erica Heiselman '21 has been one of many to switch from online back to in person. First semester, Heiselman was in person, but switched to all online second semester only to switch back during fourth quarter. She explained, "I went only because I was worried about going all in person after hybrid. I switched back because it was stressful keeping up with new information"



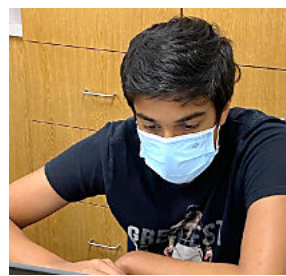
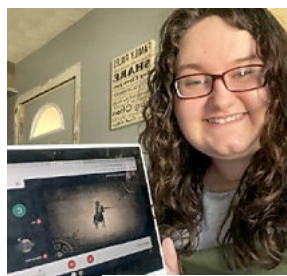
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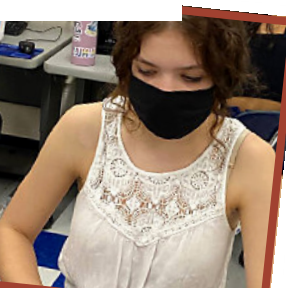
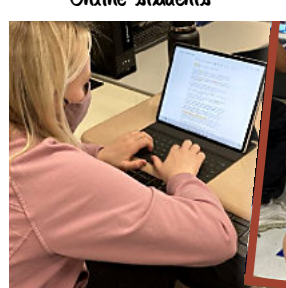
**THIS SPARTAN IS UNBELIEVABLE**

**Caroline Sierk** has been quarantining since the very beginning of quarantine. Although this is not what she planned for her junior year, she has learned that time is a gift. She loves being able to spend time with her family before graduation, creating music and writing songs, discovering new online opportunities I never would have had ordinarily, and making friends from across the country. Caroline's advice to others is, "To anyone who's going through a period of isolation, please remember that it is part of life- your life- and even though it will end, it will remain part of you and your story. I do my best to find the blue sky whenever I can, and while this situation has been really frustrating at times, I think I've come to peace with it. Honestly, this is how my junior year turned out, and I don't regret a moment of it. However, I anticipate the future with great excitement and refuse to take time for granted."

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Online students





# BACK TO THE NORM

*Students are transitioning from all online and hybrid, to being in school full time*

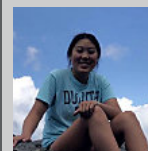
The Pleasant Valley school district had to overcome several adjustments as their students and staff returned to 100% in person learning on Feb 16. Starting the year with a hybrid schedule meant that every day only half of the students would be in the building. The district split them up based on their last names and on the days students were not at school, they were participating in online learning. Iowa Governor, Kim Reynolds, announced that Iowa schools were to return to full in person and PVHS had to make quick adaptations in order to comply. This fast switch left students of all ages with strong opinions and thoughts on the matter. Sophomore, Rylie Barber, had mixed feelings on the approach. "I really enjoyed my days at home because my schedule was really flexible, but it was also nice to see the other half of the alphabet in the halls," she said. Seniors, on the other hand, used this to their advantage and were trying to seize the last couple weeks of their high school career. Maddie Hamborg has multiple changes in her schedule but was trying to stay positive. "I had to attend

school every day with large numbers of people in the classroom, go to soccer practice every night, and continue my job on the weekends. It was stressful but because I only had a little time left there, I tried to enjoy it," she said. The classrooms, with once minimal numbers of students, were filled with a normal amount. Students were still required to wear masks and teachers tried their best to social distance the kids even with a 3ft minimum. However, even with all of the precautions, the lunch rooms broke the trend of social-distancing. PV added back a fourth lunch and plastic dividers as an attempt to keep spreading at a minimum but it was proven hard to do so with the large numbers of students without a mask eating lunch altogether. With COVID, comes changes and obstacles around every corner. People's lives were drastically altered and they were forced to adapt to the changes. Pleasant Valley is just one of the many schools who had to return to full in person learning and it was a team effort for everyone to abide by the given guidelines.

## UNPRECEDENTED but UNIFIED

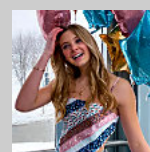
The spirit of these Spartans is UNbreakable. Here's how they showed their resilience amidst the COVID-19 global pandemic.

"We didn't really change because we knew we had to adapt to be strong."  
Michael Chang, 23

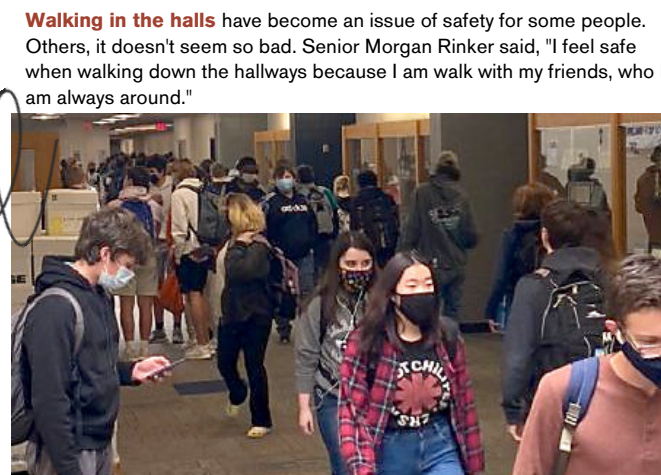


"This year I have shown resilience by staying focused even with the distractions of this year."  
Sarah Chen, 23

"The school change impacted my life in a couple ways and I missed seeing my friends so often."  
Parth Choudhary, 23



"As a cheerleader, I had to take extra precautions and it changed our practices."  
Caroline Corcoran, 23



**Walking in the halls** have become an issue of safety for some people. Others, it doesn't seem so bad. Senior Morgan Rinker said, "I feel safe when walking down the hallways because I am walk with my friends, who I am always around."



**LUNCH TIME** has become more crowded than ever. When the school was in the hybrid, the dividers at lunch allowed students be safe when eating at lunch without a mask. Now that most students are back full time, the dividers do not help much. Students can't socially distance anymore at the lunch tables, but there is an option to go into the theater to socially distance! The transition back to full time has been an interesting time to go through.

## SOMETHING UNEXPECTED

*This spring, the students and fans were allowed to return to the stands because there is room to socially distance outside.*



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