

This year has been crazy in terms of school and everything else. I am a 9th grader now at Metro East Web Academy. I had been going to public school ever since kindergarten, but this year that changed. At first I did the hybrid version of my local high school (Crescent Valley HS in Corvallis). I was scarcely learning and being on constant Zoom meetings from 9-3 (with a 15 min lunch break). Sitting still for 6 hrs straight made me really crabby and snappy. I was upset and unhappy and I was constantly feeling like my mind was full of saw dust. And after school got out at 3, I was totally drained and just wanted to sleep. This continued for two weeks, by then I realized that the system was not going to change. I met with my school counselor to see if there were any other options, he said I could switch to the online system offered by the school, but it was just a program with no real teacher-student interaction and sounded like a whole lot more sitting around in a lonely room. My Mom found MEWA and by the third week of school I had fully transferred to their school. Through this system I am able to still make connections with peers and teachers through weekly zoom meetings, but not 6 hrs a day, only 5 hrs total per week. I am able to complete my school work whenever I want, and the work is all valuable (I think that the public schools sometimes come up with busy work just to fill time). After doing my school work I still have energy to do things I am passionate about. Having the choice to change so quickly to a public school option that was ideal for me was vital in order for me to learn, be a physically and mentally healthy person. Say, I had to stay in my district and choose an option they were offering (the hybrid or online), I think that would have resulted in me needing clinical/emotional support. I also would have not been able to learn much. I hope every student in Oregon has the opportunity to fluidly choose their school, despite their district.