

## November 2020 Client Corner: Will This Work Virtually?

When Alex decided on a career in education one of the main reasons was, he loves people. Connecting with students, building relationships, and earning their respect is a unique challenge, especially with the 8th graders he is teaching now. "We have to let them know we have their back. They are not going to buy what I am selling if they think I am out to get them in a negative way." Transferring that philosophy to online learning has made these connections and relationships a bit harder.



Even through the difficulty, the whole experience of distance learning is proving to be valuable nonetheless! Alex is in grad school and teaching 8th grade English and Literature during these unprecedented times. He is working that into the experience by conducting research on the classes he is teaching. He is closely looking at student's thoughts and responsiveness to online learning. Do they think they are able to make friends this way? Do their teachers really know them? Alex's educational philosophy is to help the person, not the student. Reaching out to students and providing support to those who need it is perhaps even more rewarding when overcoming the hurdle of distance learning.

Alex is very involved in his church and during the pandemic has stepped up his responsibilities there by directing the live streams that are broadcast on the weekend. It has proved to be a fantastic ministry that he enjoys very

much. He also leads 16 freshman boys every Tuesday night in small group discussions.

This time of virtual learning and gathering has certainly been challenging, but it has pushed Alex out of his comfort zone and led to new experiences and great growth!