

# Dealing With Expectations During a Global Crisis

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# My Story

- Wanted to be a research biologist for most of my life
  - “I won’t have to deal with people”
- Masters program in aquatic entomology
  - No one reached out when I didn’t show up in the lab
  - Stayed in tiny apartment watching 90s cartoons
  - Turns out I need people
  - So I became a teacher (WWTF helped)
- **Fast Forward: November 2019**
  - Won Milken Award
- **Fast Forward: March 2020**
  - Desperately trying not to repeat Summer 2010 isolation
  - Receiving conflicting statements on what we’re supposed to do

# Expectations on Us

- You are still on the job
- Always be available to respond to your students and their parents
- Be mindful of your students' mental health
- Be mindful of your students' access to technology
- But don't burn yourselves out
- But give yourselves some breaks from being on the computer
- But keep delivering content at the same pace
- But here are 20 new pieces of software that you should use

Other Conflicting Expectations?

# Expectations on Students

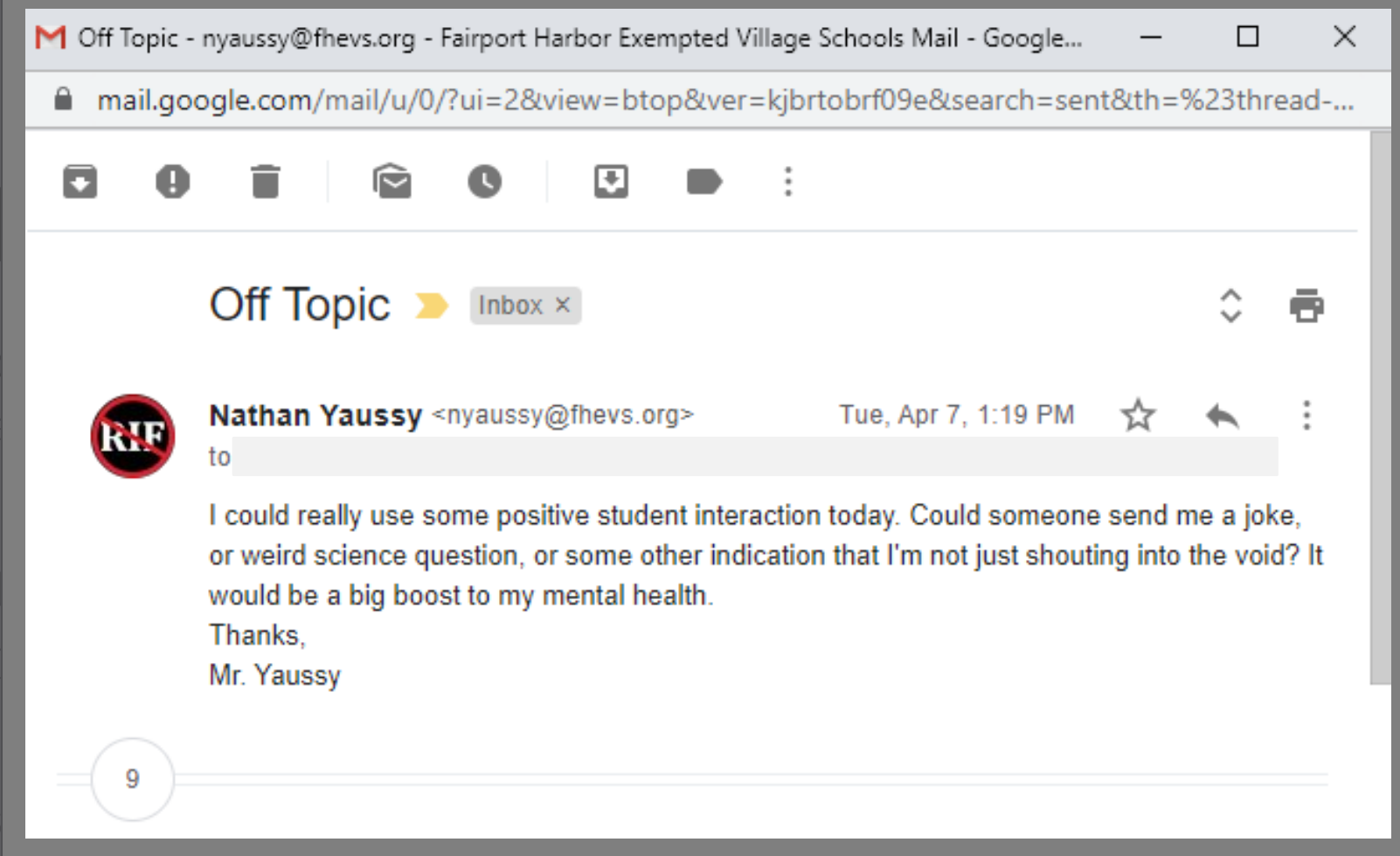
- Don't go crazy
- But here are six new assignments for you
- And your mom lost her job
- So you have to take care of your little sister
- And you also need to get a job to keep the family fed
- And there's a mandatory Hangouts for Social Studies
- And your WiFi isn't so great

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  - And your WiFi isn't so great
  - And your Math teacher is trying to introduce you to a new software
  - And you haven't met face to face with anyone outside of your family for three months



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- Prioritized content
- Made Myself Available
  - “Shouting into the void” email
  - Yaussy Office Hours Extravaganza



How Did You Deal With This?

# Your Positive Student Interactions

# My Conclusions

- A global crisis is not the time to worry about hitting all of your standards
  - “Mental breakdown” is not a useful state of mind for teaching or learning
- Technology is useful, but a specific software is not going to revolutionize teaching
- Positive student interactions are why we’re here
  - So find any way you can to produce those