

Dear Parents:

Another week is in the books and we are now only 9 days away from the end of the first quarter and the start of Fall Break! We have been very blessed to have made it is far into the school year without a single case of COVID-19. We give praise to God for keeping us safe and we thank everyone who has helped make our school such a safe place. With that being said, I want to emphasize that it has taken a lot of sacrifices and hard work to make St. Lawrence School such a safe learning environment. We want to continue to be diligent in our safety procedures and guidelines to ensure the safety of our students and staff. It would be very easy to become lackadaisical in our practices with the success that we have encountered, but I am imploring you as parents to continue to follow our guidelines, self-monitor yourself and your children, and to continue to support our effort to provide the safest learning environment possible for everyone.

The second big issue I would like to discuss is homework. Believe me, with two students in school and being working parents, I understand how difficult it was to do e-learning for an extended amount of time. I also understand that many of our students (and their parents) may be “burned out” with work that must be done at home. With that being said, I have 28 years of educational experience and can attest to the importance of homework. You are sending your children to St. Lawrence for the Catholic education, the family atmosphere, and a rigorous curriculum. I feel confident after being here for a year and a quarter that we are providing these three elements of education and are constantly working to improve in every possible aspect.

Homework is a big part of this process and will greatly benefit your children as they progress through the educational ranks. Homework reinforces lessons that are taught at school and helps students to develop a strong work ethic. Another important benefit of homework is that it teaches time management and responsibility. As a former high school teacher, I cannot tell you how many times I have seen students that have attended highly ranked high schools with incredible test scores, return home from college because those “incredible schools” did not teach them how to have a work ethic and manage their time. We do our best to adhere to our 10 minutes of homework per grade level per night rule. We also have a no homework policy on the weekends to give everyone a break and enjoy some family time. I ask you to please make the time to help your student(s) do their homework so they can become the successful students that we all want them to be.

God Bless!

Mr. Detzel

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Free Lunches – I am very happy to announce that we have qualified for a government program that will provide our students with free lunches starting this Monday, September 21st. The free meals will be offered from September 21st through December 18, 2020 or as long as the federal funding allows. A letter is being sent home with more information in the Friday Folders and the same letter is attached to this email.

St. Lawrence Live – Thank you to those who submitted requests for St. Lawrence LIVE At-Home Experience tickets. There's still time to request these kits, which will include all you need to create your own St. Lawrence LIVE viewing party at home. To secure your kit, please complete the attached flier and submit payment by Wednesday, Sept. 30. Next week will mark the start of raffle and split-the-pot ticket sales. Stay tuned for more details on how you can take your chances at great prizes and a \$5,000 split-the-pot payout. As a reminder, St. Lawrence LIVE 2020 is a virtual event on Saturday, Oct. 17. We'll go live on Facebook that night to draw split-the-pot and raffle winners. Please plan to participate in this important fundraiser for our school!

Parent/Teacher Conferences – Parent/Teacher Conferences will be held either virtually or via telephone during the week of October 19th – October 23rd. Teachers will be sending out information before fall break.

Important Dates

10/1/20 – End of 1st Quarter

10/2/20 – 10/11/20 – FALL BREAK

10/12/20 – Return from Fall Break

10/17/20 – St. Lawrence LIVE

Academic Corner - The Importance of Homework

Research has consistently shown that parental involvement in a child's learning is a key factor in that child's achievement in school. Homework reinforces skills, concepts and information learned in class.

- Homework prepares students for upcoming class topics.
- Homework teaches students to work independently and develop self-discipline.
- Homework encourages students to take initiative and responsibility for completing a task.
- Homework allows parents to have an active role in their child's education and helps them to evaluate their child's progress.
- Homework activities relate what is learned in school to children's lives outside of school and helps to connect school learning to the real world.

