



Immaculate Conception School

March 24, 2020

Dear Parents,

I hope this email finds you and your family well. I wanted to check in with you to find out how your family is making out with COVID-19 and the stay at home order. I also wanted to check in with you to see how you and your children are making out with this remote learning. At this point all of your child's teachers should have checked in and should be sending weekly lessons, broken down day by day, and for others, specifically the enrichment classes (art, music, PE, computer, library, and life skills), week by week.

I am aware that teachers are using various methods and platforms to present material. These differences exist because of the large range of age levels we serve and because of our varying levels of tech expertise. Some teachers, particularly in the early childhood and early primary are using Dojo, email and Portals; the upper primary and middle school are using Google Classroom, google meet, email and Portals. Additionally, some grade levels are providing packets and/or printed material that can be picked up from the office, if needed. Teachers are providing links to YouTube as well as other educational links to watch lessons being taught, and several of our teachers are making their own videos through Dojo and Google Meet to teach lessons to their students.

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Although we are making videos and uploading links for you to view at your convenience, we do not plan, at this time, to do any real time video conferencing. The reason for this is because there are a few issues with the use of this medium, especially with younger age children. For instance, waivers must be signed by parents allowing video conferencing. Also, a parent must be present at the time of the conferencing, and for many of you, this is just not possible. However, you can expect to be provided with more teacher-made videos, in which your child's teacher and other professionals present lessons for you and your children to view at your convenience. After viewing the lesson, students and parents are able to ask questions and receive clarification through google classroom and/or email.

I have read through the comments from the survey and a few of you have reached out with some feedback and questions. I so much appreciate you sharing your experience with us because it helps us to make adjustments and get better. I have heard that, for some of you who are still working full time, either from home or leaving the house, the lessons in every subject area are too much. Please do not fret over this. If it is too much, my recommendation is to just concentrate on the core subjects: math, ELA (English/reading/writing), science, social studies, and religion. The enrichment classes (PE, music, art, computer, library, and life skills) are sending weekly lessons, but this is primarily for those parents who are not working and are home with their children and desire more ideas and activities to do with their children. Alternating between the core subjects and the enrichment lessons may allow your child to be more physically active and creative, as well as fun for them. The enrichment lessons, in no way, are intended to cause more stress.

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Another concern I received was in relation to deadlines. I was asked if we would allow some flexibility with due dates. Yes, of course. I asked the teachers to send a week's worth of lessons broken down by day in order to provide you with a manageable schedule, but if you need more time with some lessons, please feel free to adjust as you see fit; just stay in communication with your child's teacher. We understand that each family has a unique circumstance, and we will work to adjust and accommodate as much as we can. This is a new frontier for all of us, but we are committed to doing our very best within these limited circumstances.

Another question we received was in relation to the The ACT Aspire Test Prep books that 3rd-7th students will be asked from which to complete assignments. To clarify, there is one book for both English and reading it says, ELA. Students should also have one for math.

Good news! AR is now open for use at home. Go to <https://hosted110.renlearn.com/207462/> Students can now take tests at home; however, there is a difference in that when the students were at school, they could pause during a test. A teacher could unlock a paused test. At home, students do not have a teacher around to unlock the tests. So, they must complete each test in one sitting, but these tests are not long. If you have any problems what-so-ever, please feel free to contact g.molaison@icschargers.org.

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In order for all of us to be successful, compassion and communication are essential. I'd ask that you please continue to reach out to your child's teacher(s) and to me with your observations, suggestions, questions and concerns. Our entire faculty and staff are most easily accessible through email. Each faculty member's email address is the first letter of first name followed by a period, then last name at icschargers.org (k.dimarco@icschargers.org). If you'd prefer to talk over the phone, just email and request a phone conference; the teacher and/or I will call you. Also, the office hours remain Monday-Thursday 9:00am-2:00pm. You are welcome to call the office during these hours to speak to the administration or to receive assistance.

I will continue to send you weekly updates, and know that our ICS families remain in our thoughts and prayers each and every day. We miss our students terribly and pray that we will be able to see them again soon.

Yours In Christ,

Kim DiMarco
Principal