

April 11, 2020

Dear St. Paul Families,

I feel so lucky to be a part of a community as strong and supportive as ours. These unprecedented times have given us challenges, but also new opportunities. For example, I have been able to do nightly story time for our students, and we can see the daily broadcasts of mass each day (and you never arrive late). Not to mention that we have all become experts in meetings by Zoom! As part of our adjusting to these changed circumstances, we have all had our comfort zones stretched in ways that we could not have imagined just a few short weeks ago.

I have received questions from many of you on a variety of topics. While my weekly letters have addressed most of those questions as they arose, I thought that it would be helpful to put the answers to several of the most frequently asked questions in one place.

Know that you and your families are in my prayers. The St. Paul School and Parish Staff misses our students and families, please be safe and keep healthy.

As always, please do not hesitate to email me if you have any further questions.
tforsythe@stpaulonthelake.org

Happy Easter and Many Happy Blessings,

Mrs. Forsythe

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

When will we know the schedule for the rest of the year?

- We are still waiting for the Archdiocese to announce when the school year will be ending. Until that point, we are on our normal schedule.
- *****Please note that April 24th was a scheduled day off for students and a Professional Development for teachers, we will still have a Professional Development Day, so that is still a day off for students.**

It seems like my student did not learn any new material for the first week or two of home learning. Why did it take so long for us to get to new material?

- The Archdiocese had instructed us to do review only for the first two weeks after Spring Break. As when we are in the school building, we work within guidelines given by the Archdiocese and the Superintendent.

Why don't the teachers do video instruction from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. each day?

- It is our view, and the consensus of other grade school educators, that this is not the best way for our students to learn.

What are the teachers doing? Why don't they do more with the students?

- The teachers have been working to develop at-home curricula for their classes, and to convert their in-school lesson plans into remote lesson plans. This includes participating in their own remote learning with the Archdiocese, working with their teaching teams to ensure consistency, and continuing to develop and grade assignments.
- You may have noticed an increase in teacher interaction over the last week. As our faculty has become more comfortable with remote learning, we have seen more video calls, interactive assignments, and communication with their students. While our junior high teachers had been using Google Classroom earlier this year, most of our faculty has not been trained in remote teaching, and they are learning as they go along.

Why do we still have “special” classes?

- Art, Music, Physical Education, Spanish, Technology, and Library access are all key parts of a St. Paul education and a well-rounded learning experience for our students. We believe that these subjects are an important part of the instruction that should be provided, whether in-school or at-home.

I have multiple children in different grades. Do you really expect me to supervise several Specials sessions a week?

- There is no requirement to do the special classes on the days of the week that each child would normally do so. Feel free to do activities as a family – whether a large art project, listening to a musical artist while preparing a meal, or taking a walk or playing a sport together.
- Our teachers have reduced the amount of work requirements during the remote learning. (See Attachment)

This is a lot of “screen time”, especially for our younger students. Is that appropriate?

- Our efforts to move to remote learning have increased “screen time” for many students. It is a temporary necessity as we attempt to provide the optimal educational experience. Consider reducing other forms of screen time to balance out the increase in educational screen time.

How am I supposed to teach my student while I am working full-time?

- Hang in there. This is a concern for many of us, including many of our faculty who are in the same position. We have asked the faculty to ensure that there are as few assignments as possible that need to be completed at a given time, so as to maximize the flexibility in the day for your student. We know that there are limits on the availability of computers/tablets available to you for work and school, and are attempting to plan around that.

Will these grades count? Will any of this matter?

- The Archdiocese is counting these days as instructional days and we expect there to be meaningful instruction.
- 3rd Quarter report cards will be issued when we have access to the school building.
- 4th Quarter report cards will be issued at the conclusion of the school year.

- Please note that media reports about this subject may differ, as the Archdiocese is not approaching this issue in the same way as the public schools.

What does this mean for next year? Will my student be behind?

- It is our goal that all instruction will be as close as possible to that in any other given year. Where that is not possible, the next grade's teachers will work closely with this year's teachers to identify any areas of shortfall and work them into next year's curriculum.

What about my student's favorite sport? Or club? Or other activity?

- While the building is closed, so are all activities. We urge each of you to continue your child's interests at home, and we are all looking forward to resuming them next year.

What about graduation? Confirmation? First Communion? Will my child miss out on these things?

- The Sacraments of Communion and Confirmation have been postponed, we will keep you updated on the new dates as those become available.
- Our handling of graduation, and the related activities, are still being considered, and more information will be provide in the future.

Are you still accepting Registrations for next year?

- Yes, if you have not registered yet for the 2020/2021 School Year, please send registration packets in. You may drop those off at the Parish Office and place in the Mail slot of the Parish Office Door or Mail those to the Parish Office: Attention Barb Stahl, 157 Lakeshore Drive, GPF 48236.

Do I still pay my tuition for the 2020/2021 School Year?

- Yes, please continue to pay your tuition for the 2020/2021 School Year, please send your payments in. You may drop those off at the Parish Office and place in the Mail slot of the Parish Office Door or Mail those to the Parish Office: Attention Barb Stahl, 157 Lakeshore Drive, GPF 48236.

Anything Extra

- If you would like to send a video of your children or family saying prayer or SPS Mission Statement, please send that to Mrs. Forsythe at tforysthe@stpaulonthelake.org
- Please send any pictures of your child working on classwork to Mrs. Schultz at cschultz@stpaulonthelake.org We will be using some those photos for Yearbook
- If you need any help from Mrs. Rubino, please let her know mrubino@stpaulonthelake.org