

ST. ADELAIDE ACADEMY



Developing Catholic Stewards, Scholars and Leaders

March 26, 2020

A few weeks ago, we began our Lenten journey by focusing on things we were going to give up in order to connect with the suffering of Jesus and prepare for the resurrection of our Lord. Little did we know that we would have to give up many things out of our control – things such as personal contact, hugs, visiting family and friends, the freedom to go to school, to the store, out to eat and to the amusement park. Never would we have imagined that we would have our churches closed and not have the privilege of attending Mass and participating in the sacraments.

Once we were told of the mandated school closures, we hit the ground running to figure out how we were going to make the best of the situation. Each teacher was focused on how we could support our students and our families to ensure that learning continued for students to be prepared for the next grade level. This was no easy task, but this amazing group of professionals dug in, searched for resources, collaborated and came up with a plan. These plans were thoughtful, creative and designed to have a balance of activities for these students that they know so well. As we moved into the second week, we were faced with additional challenges of providing all instruction virtually and all work submitted digitally. We have implemented a plan to ensure continued success for our students. We appreciate your patience as we continue to learn these platforms (Zoom, Google Classroom, etc.) without formalized training. The staff is eternally grateful to the many parents who have assisted with this process. Students should be comfortable with these new protocols by next week so that our time spent on Zoom is focused on instruction.

We are so happy to see that our parents, our partners in educating the students, have created schedules and workspaces to help ensure that these amazing plans established by our teachers are implemented.

Although this may seem like a difficult time, look for the blessings that this brings to all of us. It gives us an opportunity to stop and have some time with our families. Take the time to share a meal, play a game, watch a movie, take a walk, bake cookies, do a craft or read a book. We are even looking at ways to incorporate some of these activities as a graded assignment. One huge blessing is that we have no known cases of the virus in our St. Adelaide community. We pray for all those who are ill and all first responders who are helping to keep us well and safe.

A few points to keep in mind:

- Attendance is recorded based on your child's daily participation through Zoom lessons and communication/turning in work through Google Classroom.
- Zoom lessons with teachers are used for teaching for part of the day. The remainder of the "school day" should be focused on completing work and working with teachers when needed. In a regular setting, teachers do not lecture for 6 hours a day. We do not want to expect that students can learn best in that format. Teachers can also help individually with a parent present or in small groups as needed.
- Teachers are available to you and your child throughout the day through Remind, email and Google Classroom. If there are special needs or accommodations needed because of your work situation, please feel free to reach out.
- Students will be able to take Accelerated Reader tests from home beginning today, Monday through Friday from 7:45-3:30.
- At this time, our office will be open daily from 8-1 with a limited staff. All other work is done remotely.
- We have taken this time to do additional deep cleaning of all classrooms and shared spaces, including cleaning carpets

The St. Adelaide Academy administration and the Superintendent's Office of Catholic Schools are aware of the impact this situation is having on our school families and our staff. We are doing everything in our power to reduce this impact and find help. As you may know, the Senate passed the \$2 trillion COVID-19 Relief Bill which includes \$13.5 billion for K-12 schools. Originally, non-public schools were not included in this bill. Through the many voices of our private school supporters, we are included to receive a portion of that relief. The next step is to pass this bill through the House of Representatives. In addition, the diocese is looking for other funding sources for our diocesan schools. At the school level, we have made several cutbacks to ensure that we can continue to educate your children.

We will continue to find ways to connect with our students and support our families academically, emotionally, and spiritually. We know that prayer is powerful. We ask that you extend God's grace to all you encounter. Thank you to the many parents who have helped to make this process work for the betterment of the children. We also thank those who have reached out in support of the hard work that our faculty and staff is doing to fulfill our mission *"to provide students with the specific skills they need to be successful Catholic stewards, scholars and leaders"*.

May God continue to bless you and your families.

Mrs. Barbara Malouf
Principal