

Dear Parents,

As we complete day two of Distance Learning, I want you to know the teachers are committed to your child's education.

The standards for Distance Learning were mandated by the Superintendent of Catholic Schools. This type of learning has added stress to the teachers, parents, and students. We need to take this one day at a time as learning online requires focus from our students, support from the teachers, and support from the parents. Everyone is doing an awesome job!

I will be sending a survey on Friday, March 20, to get a more comprehensive sense of how Distance Learning is going thus far, and the steps we will need to take to improve the students' learning when they return from spring break.

As stated in my email this morning, this week the teachers are working off of previously taught content. This means students should be capable and knowledgeable of their expectations. This is a huge learning curve for the students as they know their teacher's expectations. The students may need to slow down and read the directions three times before initiating the assignment/s.

In the coming weeks, the teachers will shift thinking in order to plan, deliver, and assess new content. This will take time, collaboration, and consistent reflection and revision. Although the location and modes of instruction have shifted, we are following the CCSS and framework for teaching.

On Monday, March 30 and Tuesday, March 31, there will be NO Distance Learning for students. During these two days the teachers will be working with Gray Wolf, St. Francis's IT Company, on virtual learning (Google Hangouts, Zoom, interactive learning, project-based learning, etc.) to enhance collaboration between students and teachers and student to student. The teachers will also be integrating subject content especially in the middle school. Every subject is important and holds value. We teach to the whole child and that includes music, art, religion, and physical education.

On Tuesday, March 31, there will be a new packet pick up from 3pm-5pm. There will be designated areas for pickup. This will continue every two weeks until we return to school. If you are unable to pick up or if someone is picking up for you, please let your child's teacher know. More details to follow.

While the public school system is working on devising a plan for Distance Learning/Virtual Learning, the Archdiocese of Portland, Oregon, Schools are ahead of the curve. This type of learning is not meant to be a burden on parents. I suggest putting a routine in place so your child knows the expectations for the week. The teachers are here to help both the student and the parent if a question arises. Please communicate with your child's teacher. If your child is struggling on a certain concept, that is the teacher's job to assist. The student or the parent needs to send an email to the teacher and the teacher will gladly schedule chat time via Zoom or Google Hangout. **Please note: An adult must be present if there is teacher/student face time. This is following the Archdiocese's policies and procedures for educators.**

If your child has learning differences and is struggling with understanding or completing an assignment, please communicate with the teacher. The teachers are here to help! If an assignment may be late, communicate with the teacher.

The teachers have informed me that some students are sending in messy or incomplete work. The teacher will return the assignment for it to be redone. Many students are trying to complete all work in one sitting and spending hours on schoolwork. A weekly suggested plan has been posted at all grade levels to not overload the students.

While things seem to be happening quickly, we need to communicate. There are households that have both parents working, again if more time is needed, please communicate with the teacher. The teachers have to have due dates or they will be working morning, noon, and night chasing student's work, grading it, and returning it. The children are diligent workers and know their teacher's expectations. Whether learning at school or learning distantly, the students know their teacher's expectations.

Please know I am here to help as well. I want all families to return healthy and on track for the next school year.

The faculty, staff, and administration appreciate and care about you. We miss the kids and you.

Many continued blessings,

Ms. Gonzalez

Principal