



# St. Gregory the Great Academy

A Ministry of the Church of St. Gregory the Great

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Rev. Michael T. McClane, Pastor

Dr. Jason C. Briggs, Principal

Mrs. Michele L. Rivera, Assistant Principal

## MEMORANDUM

DATE: March 25, 2020

TO: All Parents, Faculty, and Staff

FROM: Dr. Jason C. Briggs, Principal

RE: **COVID-19 Status Update #11**

### Operational Updates

I hope that everyone has had a good week so far; we have completed Day 7 of remote instruction! (But who is counting???) I want to provide some updates/news for you at this time.

- Technology Problems:** As we have settled into our remote instruction routine, some technological issues have arisen. There are some issues that we cannot control, such as home internet connections and internet congestion causing websites to run slow. On the other hand, some students are having trouble accessing and/or manipulating some of the technological tools that we have been using. This is certainly understandable, especially for the students who have never used these programs before. If you or your child are having difficulties with programs, such as Kami, please reach out to Mrs. Trail. She will be happy to assist you in any way that she can. She can be contacted via email at [dtrail@stgregorythegreat.org](mailto:dtrail@stgregorythegreat.org)
- Homelife:** The best laid plans sometimes seem great on paper, complete with exciting tools and lovely outlines. Unfortunately, sometimes the implementation of these plans is much more difficult than it may seem at first glance. There are some students who are experiencing difficulty with instruction because the nature of their usual instruction is often tactile and kinesthetic or because they are used to particular materials that we have in school. Others are having significant challenges with attention, which are being aggravated by the pile of Legos or the Rainbow Loom in the same room that seem like a pile of gold beckoning for attention. Still, in some houses children now outnumber parents, or are at least even with the number of parents, who themselves are trying to meet everyone's needs (while perhaps working their own job remotely). These are very challenging times in general, and the home front may be the biggest challenge of all. You are not alone if any of this describes your current reality. We all have to make this time as productive as



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possible, but just when we finish laying out the best plan with the best of intentions, reality comes bursting in like the Kool Aid Man through a brick wall. No one should be spending 10-12 hours on school work or dealing with nightly tears. If you are facing a unique challenge, or just need some help prioritizing, please reach out to your child’s teacher. If we simply do not hear from you, Mrs. Adams is going to continue to hound you at my direction. Every teacher understands that there may need to be adjustments for some students, and I am confident that any one of them will assist you with all reasonable means. Do not let frustration, anxiety, or confusion bottle up.

3. **School Work/Grading:** Our teachers are currently doing their best Goldilocks impression. No, not the hair part, the soup part. As in, not too much, not too little, but just the right amount. A work in progress, for sure. All of the interactive data that teachers usually rely on, including direct observation, proximity, eye contact, etc. no longer exist in this setting. Parents need to be the eyes and ears for some of these data, reinforcing the need for the free flow of communication. Another challenge in the situation we are in is grading. Authentic grading is going to be a challenge during this time; there is no doubt about this. Different grade levels will have different challenges, and what the final grades will look like on the report cards will be determined by factors that we cannot yet predict. Most notable will be the duration of remote learning. Some new challenges with remote learning include: the lack of face time/interaction between teachers and students; paper based vs. electronic assignments (especially Grade 2 and below); lessons not going as planned, etc. One fact to remember is that every school in the United States will be facing this issue for this time period, so we are certainly not alone. I have asked the teachers to continue to grade work as they have been and enter the grades into Genesis as they normally do. Depending on the final resolution of our current situation, appropriate notations will be made on the final report card.
  
4. **Cocurricular Subjects:** The cocurricular areas remain an important part of our program, even in these circumstances. Depending on the area, the teachers have developed various ways to present instruction and activities. All cocurricular assignments are optional and are provided for your use as time and situations permit. I recommend checking out what is posted each week, and having your child complete what has been outlined. Please note that the following teachers have created Google Classrooms for the students to join:

<b>K Spanish</b>	zbqtljv	<b>K STEM</b>	7qebvl6	<b>Preschool/K Music</b>	knlvkgt
<b>1 Spanish</b>	qfc3657	<b>1 STEM</b>	qepsgvc	<b>1 Music</b>	b2kmdw5
<b>2 Spanish</b>	yymax6o	<b>2 STEM</b>	3zxs7r	<b>2 Music</b>	tu7lmcn
<b>3 Spanish</b>	iq6feha	<b>3A STEM</b>	45hvrwl	<b>3 Music</b>	dq4apu4
<b>4 Spanish</b>	7wp4d2r	<b>3B STEM</b>	l73lkib	<b>4 Music</b>	hgvwqbc
<b>5A Spanish</b>	1cxxavq	<b>4A STEM</b>	we5raqh	<b>5-1 Music</b>	jl6f3y2
<b>5B Spanish</b>	fndnmay	<b>4B STEM</b>	iaea6le	<b>5-2 Music</b>	fdylkcz
<b>6A Spanish</b>	6e73yi6	<b>5A STEM</b>	gw6pida	<b>6A Music</b>	i4telie

<b>6B Spanish</b>	kvdmocq	<b>5B STEM</b>	37wttel	<b>6B Music</b>	buzzisc
<b>7A Spanish</b>	ibjkdqz			<b>7-1 Music</b>	rsjmk6k
<b>7B Spanish</b>	xjgsakp			<b>7-2 Music</b>	jynyxsx
<b>8A Spanish</b>	kzcxnke			<b>8A Music</b>	xn6sxfz
<b>8B Spanish</b>	dazp3cs			<b>8B Music</b>	qrz4nd5

5. **Morning Announcements**: There have been a few questions about accessing Morning Announcements and accessing our Academy Facebook page. Our Facebook page is “open,” which means that you do not need to be a member to access our page. You can get there by following [THIS LINK](#).
  
6. **Things that Annoy Me**: Yes, we are in fact dealing with unique situations that change at a moment’s notice; however, can we (as in all of New Jersey) all agree to stop saying that “we are in uncharted waters?” Yes, we get it, we have never existed in our current society as we are now, but enough with the saying “uncharted waters.” Truly, with GPS and satellite technology, do uncharted waters even exist anymore? Maybe they do, as I am not a mariner. I do not even like boats. Still, can we perhaps consider adopting a new idiom? On that note...

Be well!

Thank you.