

April 28, 2020

Dear Families,

We were saddened when Gov. Walz declared that all school buildings will remain closed for the rest of the school year, but we also understand that it is in the best interest of our school community's health and safety. In regards to this news, I have many updates for you about the rest of the school year.

First, I want to say that I am so proud of the work that our families are doing at home. You are heroes in my book!! I want you to know that it is OK if you do not accomplish everything your child's teacher would do in the classroom, or if you do it differently than the teachers did. I know that getting children to focus on their schoolwork, in addition to all of the other work you do in the family, can be overwhelming. Small accomplishments are wins! Reading aloud, playing games, and giving your child continued love and support are so needed during this unsettling time. Thank you for what you are doing!!

We have determined that the last day of academic learning will be Friday, May 29, with all school work being due by the evening of May 31. The following week, June 1-5 will be used for year-end activities such as turning in Chromebooks, picking up belongings left at school, possible virtual school activities, and saying farewell to teachers. A complete plan, which will be developed according to social distancing rules, will be communicated at the end of May. **We will also be following Gov. Walz's declaration that May 1 and May 4 will be used as teacher preparation days for continued distance learning.** Please use these days to catch up and continue working on learning targets. No new content will be shared by teachers during these days.

We have adapted our report card to reflect distance learning. Third-trimester report cards will follow these guidelines: Meets learning expectations (80-100%), Partially meets learning expectations (61-79%), and No evidence of meeting expectations (below 60%). **If there is no evidence of meeting expectations in core classes there is the possibility that scholars may not be passed to the next grade level.** Please check in with your teacher and/or Powerschool for current grades.

Next week is Teacher Appreciation Week and our teachers have been working extremely hard to make distance learning as engaging and accessible as possible. They have been adapting their lessons to accommodate distance learning tools and our goal of personalized learning. If possible, we would love to see some thank you signs from their students in their live sessions next week! We are also planning to live stream an all-Academy Mass on the Church of the Ascension YouTube channel at 9:00am on Friday, May 8. Please have your child join us if you are able.

Plans for graduation are evolving, as well as the plans for Summer SLAM. We will update you as these plans become finalized.

Finally, I need your help with re-enrollment! **We are asking all parents to have their students re-enrolled for the 20-21 school year by this Friday as these numbers affect our budget, funding, and our ability to provide financial scholarships for next year.** Mrs. Tejkl sent out emails earlier with explanations on enrolling through Powerschool. Please help us out and complete this task this week. Mrs. Tejkl will also be available in person during our Friday office hours from 12-2:00pm.

Distance learning has not been easy for many of us as we deal with the general stress from this pandemic and its repercussions within our families. My continued prayers for you and your loved ones. As always, please do not hesitate to reach out to me or the school office if you have questions on any of the material outlined in this letter.

Peace and prayers,
Ms. Shimshock