



ALL SAINTS ACADEMY

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Dear All Saints Families,

Holy Thursday is the beginning of the Easter Triduum (from this evening to the evening of Easter Sunday) which marks the end of the Lenten season, and leads to the Mass of the Resurrection of the Lord at the Easter Vigil. Please see the VE for a list of services. St. Louis Church and Sacred Heart of Jesus Church will be streaming live this weekend for its parishioners. As many of you already know, All Saints Academy will be closed tomorrow in observance of Good Friday. There will be no live meets or other activities held or posted.

Last week provided me opportunities to speak with parents from every grade level to find out how remote learning is working from home. It is important to all of us that we are striking the balance between supporting distance learning, advancing the curriculum, providing opportunities for socialization and enrichment all while limiting screen time. Much of what we heard was quite positive, and I know that the faculty and staff (myself included) appreciate your words of praise. The following are some of the take-aways:

- The need to break some classes down into smaller group opportunities for our students.
- Parents like the live classes and would also like to see some additional independent work in the younger grades – which allows parents to juggle their own commitments while kids are working.
- The need for enrichment activities. Parents who have fast finishers really want more work for their child to help keep them occupied. We discussed the idea of providing extra and/or challenge work under an "Enrichment" tab on a teacher's classroom page. At the elementary level, this work would not be graded, but rather checked to see if students were at least on the right track. If not on the right track, teacher would assist/direct student. At the MS level, it was suggested to make it mandatory for students to complete one enrichment activity per week. We will continue to assess this as we attempt to fine-tune the workload.
- The need for more service projects around the home on Fridays. Parents, especially in the younger grades, appreciated having the children help out around the house (and not just during Lent).
- The need for teachers to have weekly communication with parents to let them know if their child is struggling, and update them if there are missing assignments.
- The desire to not overwhelm students with work, manage the due dates for assignments, and use Friday as a catch-up day.
- The suggestion to make all specials "electives" and hold meets and or lessons on Fridays when there aren't any core curriculum lessons, for those who want to continue with Spanish, Music, and Art. Mrs. Crowley is already doing this with her draw-alongs, which have recently been separated by ability for level of difficulty. We are currently working on scheduling similar opportunities for Music and Spanish.
- The need to continue holding parent meetings every two weeks or so, to check in and see how things are going, and make any necessary adjustments.
- The need for teachers to post all assignments in Google Classroom, including relevant notices and "school-wide assignments" found in the VE - so parents have an extra reminder
- The suggestion to try and make PK and K classes more structured.

We will continue to adjust the delivery of our instruction as we begin the fourth quarter marking period. To that end, we are also asking for your continued partnership.

- Please notify your child's teacher if he/she is unable to attend a lesson. We worry about them and you in the midst of this pandemic.
- Please continue to support your child's learning. However, be mindful that we need to get an accurate picture of what your child is capable of doing independently. He or she worked independently in the classroom for the most part, and we know they can continue doing that now that most of the technology issues have been ironed out.
- Please also be mindful that we are recording these lessons for students who cannot be present, or who want to review them. If you are speaking to your child or are having a telephone conversation in the background, everyone in the class can hear you.

Report cards are still being finalized. I apologize for the delay in this, but I have been experiencing connectivity issues from my home. It is my hope to have Edge reopened over the weekend.

We will continue to follow the school calendar as closely as possible. This means that we will be observing April vacation beginning Monday, April 20. Classes will resume on Monday April 27.

The financial aid deadline of April 17 is fast approaching. Please be mindful that it can take up to 10 days for applications to be processed. Your child must be registered for next year before applying, and separate ASA aid is only considered after the Diocesan Grant and Aid has been awarded.

Lastly, it is with a conflicted heart that I announce that Mrs. Berthiaume will be retiring at the conclusion of this school year. Mrs. B. broke the news to me before the COVID-19 outbreak, but I have since been focused on other things, as she has been. A dedicated and compassionate professional, Mrs. B.'s commitment to our school and to your children is unwavering. She and her husband plan to enjoy their retirement and their grandbabies full-time this summer. Please join me in offering her our heartfelt appreciation and wishing her well when she begins this new chapter in her life.

I wish you all a blessed Easter.

Yours in Christ,

Joan E. Matys

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