

April 8, 2020

Dear Parents,

During this unprecedented time, I want to thank each and every member of our community for their courage and flexibility in taking on these COVID-19 challenges. I admire the grace given and received as we adapt to the updates. There is great love in our community for each other, and I know that we all are praying for each other's health and well-being, and greatly anticipate the date when we can come together in person! We are an EASTER people who anticipate the resurrection of Jesus. This time of LENT has truly been a time of great sacrifice and mourning for all that we are missing. But we know the story, Jesus was resurrected, and there is new and everlasting life for all of us!

St. Edward Parish School has been in session daily since Governor Inslee's mandatory school closure announcement on March 11<sup>th</sup>. We immediately took inventory of our community's technology resources and switched gears to remote learning. Learning is happening at St. Edward Parish School.

Teachers have spent hours restructuring and building weekly/daily lesson plans to support your child's continued academic growth. Their lessons also have YOU in mind as parents who are supervising and assisting your children. We know you are multi-tasking at home, and have many things to juggle besides supervising lessons. With the confirmation of mandatory school closure through June, **I want to re-affirm our commitment to you and clarify all that is happening.**

Teachers are....

- on-line daily from 8:00-3:30 for you. Some have extended hours due to their own family schedules; others have offered direct phone numbers for your added convenience.
- creating lessons based on *Essential Learning Standards* at each grade level using a variety of resources.
- regularly sending out news/assignments via email and using online tools.
- preparing hard copy /instructional supplies (if needed) for pick up daily 11:30-1:00 M-F. Chrome books are still available for families who need them.
- monitoring/assessing work that is submitted via Google Classroom Grades 5-8<sup>th</sup>, Seesaw, and Flipgrid, and adjusting SchoolSpeak grades.
- organizing regular student zoom meetings/check-ins to clarify concerns/questions and offer social/emotional support. We are taking attendance at ZOOM meetings to verify participation in learning. ***It is expected that kids will attend as regularly as possible, especially Grades 3-8.***
- tracking and responding to emails/questions from students as acknowledgment for effort and participation.
- making one to one connections with kids/parents, when needed/asked, at a variety of times throughout the day.
- daily sack lunches are available, M-F 11:30-1:00p.m. to families who request the service
- presenting me with weekly updates of ***Students of Concern***: students who are showing little, if any participation, or from families who are not answering emails/phone calls so that we can problem solve any issues.

To date we have about 70% of our students fully engaged with Remote Learning. Through daily participation, your children are practicing and solidifying the skills they have already learned this year, and building upon them, so that they will be better prepared for the challenges that come next year.

**Third Trimester Report Cards will go out in June.** We will have a **combination of graded work** as well as an **anecdotal paragraph that identifies your child's level of participation in all that is currently being offered.** These assessments will be documented in the permanent record file for each child and will be a part of the reports districts and private schools request in transfers and graduation.

In terms of finances, yes we are still charging tuition. Our fiscal year runs July 1, 2019-June 30, 2020. You may remember from our **State of the Schools** meeting in February, our budget is based on *expenses incurred over 12 months of running a business.* These include utilities and business fees, facilities maintenance, a myriad of instructional resources including on-line platforms, and staffing. *Our teachers and office staff are still working for you and available every day.* We continue to pay all these expenses and maintain our fiscal responsibilities for this year. Father Scott and I meet weekly to review our budget and discuss finances. We do understand that many families have lost income due to the STAY AT HOME orders. I ask that you contact me immediately if you have a concern and we can make a plan for going forward.

We will honor our Easter Vacation schedule. Teachers will NOT send out NEW assignments next week. We will use it as a time to UNPLUG and get outside when we can! Remote Learning at St. Edward Parish School will resume on Monday April 20<sup>th</sup>.

From all of the staff at St. Edward's, we wish your families a blessed Easter.

In peace,

Monica Wingard, Principal