



November 19, 2020

Dear Families,

If you are like all of us here, these past months have made us numb to change. I know I've pretty much given up on planning to accomplish my "to do" list on most days because no matter how much I think I'm on top of it, things never turn out the way I'd envisioned. Our communication to you on Tuesday was another one of those curveballs. And perhaps one of the most disappointing we've had to send out.

The entire staff here was anticipating and working hard toward fully returning to life on campus with all our students. Even if we needed to keep physical distancing in place, at least we were hoping things would be getting a little back to "normal." Now, we have been forced to return to where we were in September.

Perhaps this will just be a big bump in the road back and we'll be looking toward reopening the doors come January. And maybe it is appropriate that this newest wrinkle happens over the weekend we celebrate the end of our liturgical year with the Feast of Christ the King. Next year HAS to be better!

The more each one of us does over the holidays to avoid "non-essential" travel and contact, the sooner we can get these infection numbers to fall and, with luck, bridge the months until access to the vaccine becomes the norm. Fingers crossed.

So... the important things to remember these next four weeks:

- **Tomorrow, Friday 11/20, and Monday and Tuesday, 11/23 and 24 we will NOT offer classes online OR in person.** The lower school teachers are already scheduled for another workshop on making the best use of the online resources in our new Reading series. And all of us will be transitioning back over to providing remote instruction on Monday, 11/30.
- **Parent-Teacher conferences will go on as planned next Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday, 11/23-25.** Contact your homeroom teacher if you've lost the Zoom link or schedule time.
- **Full remote instruction begins on Monday, 11/30 for Grades 1-8 (PK and K students are still allowed on campus).** We will return to five days a week for instruction, Monday through Friday. The bulk of our direct online instruction will take place in the mornings, leaving the afternoons for individual work, one-on-one check-ins and teacher prep. Each grade level teacher will contact you with their specific login hours.
- If your family is in LEGITIMATE need of **borrowing a school-owned laptop** during this period, we will be scheduling times for pick-up next Monday and Tuesday, 11/23

and 24 – MORNINGS ONLY – 8:30am - Noon. Contact the school office to arrange for pick-up.

- At this writing, this new remote schedule will remain in place through Friday, December 18 at Noon when Christmas break begins. There is a possibility that health officials will advise us to continue in this fashion for the first two weeks in January in order to set up a “quarantine window” of time after holiday travel. My hope is that come Monday, January 4, we can begin rolling the classes back onto campus. Watch for any additional communications over the break.
- As mentioned in the letter, we have been granted a **limited ability to bring individual students back periodically for specialized instruction** such as Title I and other remediation. Our staff will be in touch if your child can be offered that additional assistance.

Make sure to get in touch with us as these weeks progress. No doubt there will have to be some fine-tuning, but please, don't let your questions or concerns linger. Contact your child's homeroom teacher. We are all here to help!

And surely don't forget:

- No Monday Mr. Sherman video next week as we prepare for the daily Minutes of Advent series.
- We've reached the **end of Trimester 1**. Watch for progress reports in your mail after today, Thursday, November 19, in time for parent-teacher conferences. (The tape sealing the envelope was added by us. Your child DID NOT get the mail before you!) Parent Portal access for Grades 6-8 has been turned off in order for teachers to upload all their comments and final grades into the system for printing.
- **Parent-Teacher Conferences are still scheduled for Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday November 23-25**. This year we'll be hosting those through a Zoom call. The conferences are designed as a time for you and the teacher to break open the most recent progress report, gain information regarding your child's STAR assessment data, and help refine goals for the next term. There is one time allotted for each student. Families with multiple responsible adults need to take that fact into consideration when scheduling. Information for scheduling a time a time was sent out three weeks ago in an email from the Office.

Many prayers for you and your family as we approach Thanksgiving and an opportunity to realize that no matter how many twists and turns we've been handed, we can still count ourselves as blessed. Advent is on the horizon!



Dan