



Dear Middle School Families,

I had the opportunity to gather the middle schoolers at an assembly on Thursday to start imagining what our transition to *StG Community at Home* would mean, and we focused on the word *community*. School is much more than a place or time-- it is an intentional community of learning built from the interaction among our students, teachers, parents, and administrators, each unique in personality, strengths, and challenges. St. George's is committed to preserving our one-of-a-kind school community, even if we are all working from home.

The Middle School faculty is prepared to deliver instruction to your children at home for as long as needed. We will begin by posting welcome messages on each Google Classroom and hosting an Advisory check-in at 9 a.m. on Wednesday. Virtual lessons will begin on Thursday. Because middle schoolers are growing into their independence and can take responsibility for their work most of the time, and because our middle schoolers are used to doing work on their school-issued Chromebooks, we are well-positioned to make a smooth transition to online learning. Here is a [video](#) and [overview](#) of our school plan from the Tech Department.

While attending school remotely is not what any of us expected this year, working together, we can continue to learn and grow in the coming weeks. To help us along, the Counseling and Wellness Department is still here to offer support. In addition to sharing resources on our webpage, [Mrs. Tamara Claverie](#) will continue to provide weekly life skills lessons. You may also email Mrs. Claverie directly to engage further support for your middle schooler. Below is an overview of what you and your child can expect from the faculty and how you can support the work of the faculty to ensure that your children are productive.

Expectations for Faculty:

- Advisors will invite their groups to check in daily at 10 a.m. using Google Meet.
 - These meetings are not mandatory, but encouraged.
- Faculty will post a virtual lesson for each class that would have convened on campus that day on Google Classroom.
 - For example, 8th grade French and Spanish classes do not meet on Friday, so there would not be a French or Spanish lesson posted on Friday.
- Lessons and materials will be posted on Google Classroom by 8 a.m. each day and will be due by that time the following morning.
- Lessons should last approximately 30 minutes.
 - For classes that meet for a double block of time on certain days, teachers will assign 60 minutes of work.
- Lessons will also be posted on the Assignment Calendar documents by 8 a.m. so that parents may see an overview of the day's work more easily.
 - [5th Grade Assignment Calendar](#)
 - [6th Grade Assignment Calendar](#)
 - [7th Grade Assignment Calendar](#)
 - [8th Grade Assignment Calendar](#)
- Additional homework will not be assigned; however, your children will be expected to read independently in their ELA books beyond the assigned ELA class work.
- Teachers will host virtual office hours to offer extra help. These hours will be posted on Google Classroom and on the Assignment Calendars.
- Alma will be updated weekly.



Expectations for Students:

- Live out our StG PIRC values at home and online at all times.
 - **Perseverance** - Keep trying, even when online learning feels different or is a challenge. Communicate with your teachers through email and Google Classroom when something doesn't work.
 - **Integrity** - Do your own work, and use your Chromebook responsibly. Make sure the work you produce is an honest reflection of your comprehension. Do not use your phone to look up answers or talk to other students while you are doing an assignment. If your teacher wants you to collaborate, he or she will indicate that in the lesson plan and tell you which platform to use (ie, shared Google doc, discussion on Google Classroom, Google Meet, etc.).
 - **Respect** - Engage with others in a kind, appropriate manner in video calls, class comments, email, and any other online interaction.
 - **Compassion** - Be patient and kind with yourself, your peers, and your teachers. If you feel frustrated, communicate in a calm way and be patient for a response.
- Remember that you have signed the *Acceptable Use Policy*. Your school-issued laptop is to be used for school-related work only.
 - For example, streaming Netflix or shopping online is not OK on your Chromebook, even when you are done with your school work. Use personal devices for recreation.
- Appear in virtual meetings fully dressed and seated at a desk or table with appropriate scenery behind you.
 - In other words, don't join a video call with your classmates and teachers in your pajamas from your bed.
- Check and respond to your email twice a day-- once in the morning and once in the evening.

Expectations for Parents:

- Provide a quiet, distraction-free space with a desk or table for your child to work.
- Remove your child's cell phone and any other smart devices from the room while your child is engaged in school work.
- Check your child's browser history daily (by simply clicking CTRL+H) to make sure he or she is sticking to school-appropriate websites and applications.
- Help your child communicate with his or her teachers and the Tech Team (tech@stgnola.org) to troubleshoot issues that may arise as we make the adjustment to online learning.
- Should your child be ill and unable to complete his or her online lessons, please email [Mrs. Margie Fell](#), the school secretary, [Nurse Penny](#), and your child's teachers to record the absence.
- Please be mindful of the reason we have made the transition to *StG Community at Home* and consider ways you can help your child safely connect and socialize with friends according to the recommendations of the [Centers for Disease Control](#).

Working remotely, as teachers and students, is a wonderful opportunity for all of us to gain new skills. On the other side of this pandemic, we will be smarter and stronger. The Middle School faculty and I look forward to facing this challenge with you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kevin Jones". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Director of Middle School