



Thursday, March 26, 2020

Dear Parents,

*"In extraordinary times like these, we are all first responders. May we respond to one another with the kind of grace and tenderness that reflects the God we have." Father Greg Boyle*

How are you? I wish I could reach out to each of you and see how you are navigating through this pandemic. I want to hug each of my boys and let them know that we are here for them. We are told by psychologists to be honest to our children, but also be optimistic and hopeful in our discussions. Let our boys know that our new learning plan is part of our "social distancing" and will help us get through this unique situation.

As we conclude our Spring Break, we now shift into uncharted territory. We are asked by the ministry to show continuity in learning. This is not homeschooling. This is a worldwide crisis situation where we are trying to connect with our boys by reaching out to show we care, that we are here for them and that we want to bring some routine and learning into their lives. We care about their emotional, spiritual and academic well-being. Their health and safety are most important in our mind and I know you feel the same.

Parents have always been the primary educators and are so now. If you see that this system of learning that we are setting up is derailing the emotional and mental health of your boys, please communicate with us, and work together to ensure that we are coming up with a program that works. We will do our best.

We cannot recreate the school day. Flexibility will be the key. Teachers will be taking Monday, March 30 and Tuesday, March 31 to navigate through the details of home learning support and will connect with you no later than Wednesday, April 1, 2020.

What will this look like? While the Middle and Senior Schools may have a schedule in place, we believe that the elementary students will need to be more flexible due to home demands on technology. It is best to have a routine in place for your son, whatever works best for the family. A certain consistent location for homework to take place would be ideal.

The forthcoming learning plan from teachers will give your son support in literacy and numeracy. He will have a system in which to stay current with his reading and writing. He will be able to review basic facts and also for intermediate students, a system in which to teach new concepts. While the primary students will focus on literacy and numeracy, the intermediate students will also have Social Studies and Science lessons woven into their learning. Along

with this directive, there will be other online tools that you can access that will support your son for the continuation of his learning. The teachers will hold office hours where you can communicate directly with them, and they will also be checking in with you.

Do not discount all of the good learning that can take place at home. The cooking lessons, the cleaning and laundry instructions, playing together, watching movies and documentaries of interest, and praying together.

Being Lent, our priest has asked us to read the Bible, the Gospel of St. Matthew, every night after dinner. The first night, I sat alone reading the Bible out loud after dinner. The next night, my husband and I sat together and a few days later my two daughters joined in. It is now a regular part of our evening and is the glue connecting us through these uncertain times. Find a way to connect to God in your family. The Pope has asked that we pray with him, even though we can no longer go to Mass. There are so many people that need our prayers.

You will shortly be hearing from your son's teacher. I pray for all of us, may we stay healthy and look out for each other.

Please feel free to [contact me](#) as we navigate through the next few weeks of learning.

Sincerely and with kind regards,

Barbara Seppelt