



Friday
March 27, 2020

Dear SJB Parents,

As we prepare for our third week of distance learning, we aim to add more instruction and more consistency in communication and daily work expectations.

We are grateful to our parents for the grace you've shown as you've been burdened with the responsibility of helping to guide your child's learning. We know that this experience has been particularly difficult for many of you. We know you have your own work to do, and we all feel the anxiety of the ongoing health crisis. I assure you that the effect on you has been the primary concern in our planning meetings.

There's been a learning curve for everyone including your child's principal and teachers. Through trial and error, we've strived to get better each day. I am sure we will be better at this next week than we were this week. Our teachers have been working long hours (many more than usual) learning how to use new tools, responding to questions from students and parents, trying to overcome an extraordinary challenge.

Distance learning is familiar to students in high school and college, but it has not been tried on this scale in elementary schools. Many parents are learning why. Some of our teachers are trying to teach their students from a distance while watching their own children at home just as our school parents are trying to guide their children at home while juggling their jobs.

As members of a Catholic school community, there is no better time for prayer for one another and prayer for our own compassion, patience, and empathy, especially at the arrival of Holy Week.



Improvements Coming

Here are some developments that we think will help going into our third week:

- Increase in online class meetings
- Assignment of special-subject teachers and aides to help classroom teachers with distance-learning plans and targeted communication
- Additional enrichment learning opportunities for students *as an option*
- Return of two teachers from illness and bereavement absences
- Designation of each Friday as Catchup Friday for students in grades 5-8.
- Work submission due by date, not by time
- Reinforcement of consistent communication

Consistent Communication Through the Portal

Item	Where to Find It	When
weekly learning plan	Files	By Monday
a note on communication and learning for the week	Class Summary (subject in 5-8, homeroom in PK-4)	By Monday
daily assignment from weekly plan	Coursework	On Monday
Notification of plan posting	Email	By Monday
Weekly plan attachment (optional)	Coursework	By Monday

Survey Results

We wish to say thank you to all of the parents who provided feedback in the parent survey on remote learning. We worked throughout the week, after reviewing the results, on implementing parent suggestions.

The overall results of the survey showed general satisfaction with the amount and level of work and communication from teachers and school. The percentage of parents who



responded that they were frustrated or dissatisfied with communication and/or the learning plan was generally below 20 percent.

Half of our parents said they wanted more direction on how to guide their children. Meeting that need is our ongoing challenge.

In some areas, parents were divided. For example, some asked for the weekly plan in one list. Others asked for the plan to be broken up into daily chunks. The solution? Our teachers are providing the plan both ways. Teachers understand as well as anyone that we all have different ways of learning.

The results of the survey told us...

- 68 percent of parents want to give the kids a break for a week after Easter with or without math/reading homework
- 32 percent said to continue daily learning through the break
- 60 percent of parents prefer the portal to email for communication
- 79 percent said their child has access to a device and internet at home
- 30 percent said their child is limited to an hour per day on a device
- 25 percent of parents said keeping their child on task has been frustrating
- 26 percent of parents said guiding their child in learning has been frustrating
- 25 percent said their child needs more work
- 11 percent said their child needs less work
- 11 percent said communication from the school has been insufficient
- 14 percent said communication from the teacher has been inconsistent
- 26 percent said the amount of information has been overwhelming

Several parents noted that the questions were framed negatively. This was done intentionally. We asked parents to participate in the poll at the end of the first distance-learning week because we wanted to use the results to help us adjust in our distance-learning approach. We didn't want positive results that weren't genuine, so we worded the prompts negatively. We're somewhat reassured that, in general, 75 percent of our parents are satisfied with distance learning, but we've put all of our effort into getting better in the areas where we can improve.

After Care

Families in our annual After Program will not receive a monthly invoice for April. Two weeks ago, we announced a 50 percent reduction in monthly invoices for March.



Prayers for our Families

We are praying for all of our families. We pray for your health and the health of your relatives against the coronavirus.

We pray especially for the Freeman family after the death of Mr. Freeman. Not only did the family lose Mr. Freeman, but funeral restrictions prevented friends from being able to pay their respects and grieve with and support the Freemans. At a later date, we will have a memorial prayer service for Mr. Freeman so that all of us may honor him and the Freeman family.

Auction Goes On

The SJB gala was cancelled but the online auction is going on right now. Just go [here](#) and start your bidding. Remember: springtime items can be redeemed in the fall. If you lose this note and need to find the auction link, it's in the banner at the top of the SJB website.

Thank you for your continued cooperation, patience, and support.

Respectfully and Faithfully,

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