

The Sentinel Express ~ April 22, 2020

Principal's Message

With the return from the Easter holiday, we are now in the “final stretch” of the 2019-2020 academic year. As we have also settled into our new routine of eLearning and the need for near daily communications during the time of transition has passed, we are pleased to introduce the first edition of our abbreviated newsletter, *The Sentinel Express*.

Each week I will provide important updates regarding our eLearning program and plans for events and activities associated with the close of the school year.

As announced via a letter earlier this week from Dr. Vorbach, Superintendent of Schools, our approach to grading during the third trimester will be informed by our recognition of the fact that we are working through extraordinary circumstances. As such, we wish to acknowledge all that you are doing as parents to support your children in the learning process and to provide our students maximum credit for work completed.

The following is a summary of key points related to grading during the third trimester.

For Grades K -2:

- The report cards are progress reports, which are developmental by design. The ratings *Meets Grade Level Standards (M)* or *Progressing toward Grade Level (P)* will be the most commonly given grades.
- Emphasis has been placed on Language Arts, Math and Religion, but cross-curricular approaches will be encouraged to bring other subjects into the learning experience.
- Teachers will grade what is turned in and will not deduct for work not completed.
- Work turned in by May 29th will be accepted.
- Effort grades will not be recorded.

For Grades 3-8:

- Teachers will give maximum credit for demonstrated knowledge.
- Teachers will grade what is turned in and not deduct for work not completed.
- Grades in this Trimester will reflect an emphasis on the progress each individual student is able to achieve.
- Effort grades will be not be recorded.
- Work turned in by May 29th will be accepted.

Specials:

- These courses are for enrichment purposes; although Trimester 3 grades will not be given, special subject teachers will provide feedback to participating students (for example, a student who completes an art project).
- Teachers will capture engagement/participation in specials with a brief comment on the report card.
- No effort grades will be recorded.

An important consideration is the fact that grades for the third trimester will capture each individual student's progress on the material covered. Student performance during the first and second trimester will be particularly relevant because it will form the baseline for understanding whether or not a student has continued on a consistent or improving trajectory of learning. As our commitment is to the success of each student, teachers will retain great flexibility in the option of re-teaching and re-testing to promote student mastery of concepts.

Since our transition to eLearning, we have witnessed the shared commitment of faculty, staff, parents and students. Everyone has worked with diligence to keep our students on their path of learning. I have every confidence that the good work that we have begun together will be brought to a successful conclusion and that our students will end the year with a wonderful sense of accomplishment.

We would be hard-pressed to identify another time during which our community has embraced such a "growth mindset". And now we have the opportunity to take it one step further, confirming what the research has already demonstrated, i.e. that learning for the sake of learning is the greatest motivating factor. Let us together continue to ignite the fire of faith and learning in our students!

With God all things are Possible!

Virtues in Practice

Virtue for the Month of April: Justice

Definition: Being fair and giving each his due.

Saints: St. Anthony of Padua (Gr. PreK-2), St. Katherine Drexel (Gr. 3-5), St. Thomas More (Gr. 6-8)

Zoom Classes – Important Reminders

Teachers have begun to host Zoom class meetings this week. Please note that a parent permission slip is required in order for a student to participate in these *optional* sessions.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION - ZOOM USAGE

All classes will be recorded and posted in Google Classroom for parents and student to access should they choose not to participate in the session.

As we begin this process, teachers will host 1-2 meetings per week with each lasting approximately 15-20 minutes. Through use of an internal calendar, the faculty are scheduling these sessions in advance to avoid any overlap of classes.

Race for Education Virtual Run

We are excited to announce that the Race for Education will take place on Friday, May 8 to coincide with one of our Eagle Days!

Students and families are invited to participate in the Race by running laps in their yards and/or neighborhoods – social distancing included! Parents are encouraged to log their child's distance over a one -hour time period and to submit their time to raceforeducation@allsaintsva.org. We look forward to awarding virtual medals to the grade level winners who run the furthest distance!

Parents are also invited to forward photos to development@allsaintsva.org so that we can share them with our community. Remember to show your school pride by wearing Spirit Wear on the day of the Race!

Parents, friends and families are encouraged to continue to send in their mailers in support of the event. Donations may be submitted through the mail or at the following link:

<https://allsaintsvaschool.org/parent-resources/pto/race-for-education/>

Thank you for continuing to support our community!

A Look Ahead to Next Week

What will the end of the year look like? How will we celebrate the success of our students and bring the year to a reasonable close?

And what about those Stewardship Shares? Can we count time spent supporting our children in the learning process? (Absolutely!)

Look for these details and more in next week's edition of *The Sentinel Express!*