



St. Ailbe
CATHOLIC SCHOOL

3/27/20

THANK YOU to the parents who completed the survey! The information is going to help inform our instruction as we move forward. Trust me- I definitely hear you on trying to strike a balance between caregiver, teacher, and working. This is not easy without any of the context surrounding the situation taken into account. Throw in the uncertainty of the whole situation, and this does become super tricky.

Realize that we, the entire staff at St. Ailbe, are here to help. Always. Some people wanted more paper assignments; some wanted none. I ask you to reach out to your teacher. He/She is ready to accommodate. There are ALWAYS extra resources on our website, stailbeschool.org, if you are just looking for something different.

As we are now looking forward, teachers have planned out important lessons that will help students move forward, which is obviously one of our major concerns. This work is mandatory and will be graded. That being said, there will be flexibility with the time that it gets turned in because, quite simply, there are just those days. We get that. While we want the students to stay on top of the work as much as possible, we know that there will be times that it's just not going to happen, especially with our little ones being at home with mom, dad, granny, auntie, etc. The work has to be completed so we are not off track when we get back, but being off by a day or two so the students (and you) are in the right mindset is much more important.

We also have to be very realistic in that COVID-19 will possibly effect some of our families during the distance learning time period. If it does, we understand that the work will not be- and should not be- the priority. Please communicate with your child's teacher so accommodations can be made.

The work for the week is always posted at stailbeschool.org for all grades, so parents of every grade can see what the students are expected to do, even in our upper grades that are more independent... and may not want as much help. The work will be posted by the Sunday beginning the week. We are expecting that all the work is completed (even if that timing is a little more flexible than usual), and it will be graded with grades posted to Powerschool.

As much as possible, try to stick to a schedule. (Amen- I know this is tricky, especially if you are working from home too.) Work before lunch, a break, lunch, some work after lunch, followed by chores/rest/etc.. Have the students incorporate some art and experiments and field trips. **Students will not sit from 8:00 in the morning until 3:00 in the afternoon-** and we do not expect them to do that! Movement in the day and breaks are absolutely expected! Find a spot to get the student comfortable to do the work, but not comfortable enough to sleep through it. Set a schedule so there are mini-goals with what can be accomplished based on a clock the students can see. Setting a timer can really help with focus if that has been an issue at home.

We know the little ones are going to need more help. (I'm right there with you!) Please communicate with your teacher when the amount or timing is not going to work; we are ready and expecting that. (I've had to move things around with "school at home" myself for my kids.) Be flexible with the little ones AND YOURSELF. You are not ruining their education by saying the workload is too much on a day. Figure out how and when the work can get done, and just communicate that. We are all figuring this out, so the more we can do together, the better.

We do not know how long this will be. We have a week and a half more of the distance learning, followed by our spring break. When I do receive any update, I assure you I will pass the information along. People have asked if I think it will go past Spring Break. I just honestly do not know.

What I do know right now:

March 15-April 7 Distance Learning; all work posted on stailbeschool.org for all grades

April 8- April 17 Spring Break- students will not have assigned work and are expected to relax and have fun; all resources will still be on our website for practice if you choose that

We love all of the creativity and the amazing persistence that our families have shown these past two weeks! Please remember that **WE ARE HERE** to work through frustrations or confusion- I did see math come up a lot on the survey. Your child's teacher is there for you and your child through all of this! We can make little videos or set up a video call to help out. Reach out when you need a hand.

Stay well. Stay safe. We love you! Have a good week!

God bless,

Mrs. Mostyn