

March 25, 2020



Good Parents and Students of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton:

This past week and a half have certainly been an adjustment for all of us. I certainly miss the routine of the school day: welcoming students off the buses in the morning; coming together in prayer throughout the day; celebrating the sacraments as a faith community; observing our teachers and students engaged in great instruction and learning; lunchroom conversations; and seeing our students succeed in all of their extracurriculars. If anything, this time away has cemented the power and impact of our school community and faith community. We certainly miss interacting and ministering to each and every soul.

I wanted to reach out before we enter spring break as our online method of instruction will be continued through April 13 and potentially further. This new method of instruction and learning has exemplified the commitment and dedication of both our students and teachers. I have so enjoyed seeing students interact with each other during a teacher's livestream, seeing their continued rigorous work in their reading, writing, and math, and hearing of students connecting with one another via various mediums to help one another. Also, thank you to our parents for your continued partnership and support at home as you support, motivate, and care for your child.

Throughout the past weeks, I have had dozens of conversations with our staff and faculty as to how best continue our strong instruction through an online format. Below are some of the notes and highlights:

- Teachers will focus on essential standards needed for the completion of the class and for success and readiness at the next grade level.
- It is our goal for students to average approximately 20 minutes of work per day in each of their classes. Please keep in mind this may be heavier/more intensive one day and less in following.
- Team leaders (6th: Mrs. Anderson, 7th: Ms. Gray, 8th: Mrs. Summers) will continue to send out their weekly newsletter by Monday morning to both parents and students with an overview of each class for the week.
- Further assignments and necessary documents will be uploaded to the GTACS website and organized by grade. They will be located under the "COVID-19 Info & Learning Resources" tab on the home page, or at: <https://gtacs.org/about/covid-19-resources/>
- Teachers will continue to assess as they see fit for their classes, realizing assessment will be open-book and open-note. Thank you for encouraging your child to practice honesty and academic integrity.
- End of quarter: The quarter will end as scheduled on Wednesday, March 25. Report cards will open shortly after our return from spring break.
- After break, teachers will be holding online office hours and will be available via email during school hours for any questions and academic support.
- Teachers will continue to contact home for students not completing work. Thank you for continuing to utilize RenWeb.
- Please do not expect new work during spring break. Teachers will be utilizing this time to prepare and plan forward, and to take time with their families.

Technology/App Usage

As we adjust to online instruction, some changes will be necessary relative to how content is delivered and work is turned in. Below is a listing of some apps that may be used; however, this list is likely just the beginning. Thank you for monitoring your child's technology and discussing Internet safety. If you are in need of any technological support, please reach out to our librarian, Mrs. Jarema, at mjarema@gtacs.org

- The majority of resources/assignments will be posted at <https://gtacs.org/about/covid-19-resources/> Please check based on what is outlined in your child's weekly newsletter.
- **RenWeb:** teachers may also make available documents under "Lesson Plans", in addition to the other locations.
- **Submitting assignments:** Attached to this email are instructions for scanning and emailing assignments with an iPhone or Android. **ScanBot** is also a great free resource.
 - When submitting please include in the subject: Student Name: Class/Hour: Assignment. For example: *Carl Scholten: ELA 2: Ch 2*
- **Moodle:** Several teachers will be communicating to students their use of this platform.
- **Readworks** (<https://www.readworks.org>): ELA teachers will utilize this tool. Look for instructions via student email.
- **Accelerated Reader:** students will have access to take AR tests at home. Use the same log-in you would at school. <https://global-zone51.renaissance-go.com/welcomeportal/755848>
- **Khan Academy:** This wealth of resources will be utilized by our Math department in addition to their instruction.
- **Zoom/YouTube Live:** Teachers may utilize these to create discussion. Numerous faculty members have already found the interaction between teacher and student helpful.

As we navigate these uncharted waters, we must continue to rely on our faith, knowing that our Lord is ever-faithful. Each evening, my wife comes home from the hospital and shares the struggles and tough decisions many there are facing due to the Coronavirus. It certainly helps put my worries and fears in perspective. I know many are undergoing challenges never before seen or anticipated. Please let us know how we can support.

Know of our prayers for all of our students, families, community, and world.

Our Lady of Guadalupe...pray for us!

God Bless,

Carl Scholten
Principal, St. Elizabeth Ann Seton