

Good Students and Parents,

Peace be with you!



Over the past few days we have been meeting on how to continue to move the curriculum forward at Saint Francis in eventuality that schools would be closed. The State of Michigan's decision to suspend classes for three weeks came sooner than I expected. Fortunately, we have several advantages due to the iPad and the online platforms that many of our teachers use daily.

The teaching staff is working on how to continue the learning while the students are at home, and many of them have already addressed their students explaining how their class will progress. Here is what you can expect:

- Teachers will send assignments, PowerPoints, lectures, videos either through e-mail or using Moodle. Moodle is the on-line learning platform used by many of our teachers.
- Cameras will be opened on the iPads to allow students to hand write some assignments, take a picture, and send it back to the teacher.
- Each teacher will have on-line office hours to answer questions either in a chat format or via e-mail. These hours will be sent by the teachers to both the parents and the students.
- Assignments, projects, assessments will come with a deadline. It is important your students work diligently to stay ahead of timeline.
- The end of the marking period will remain the same; teachers will make decisions about what assignments and assessments they will need to finish before the end of the quarter.
- Different courses will be treated differently. For example, the expectations of AP classes will continue to be rigorous as we prepare them for the A.P. examinations.

We talked at length about the need to pare-down the curriculum to the essentials and provide as much support as possible. We have always believed in the primacy of direct eyeball to eyeball instruction; however, our situation now demands this change. With all the uncertainty, we are going to be prepared, if needed, to continue delivering our course content in this manner after the three weeks.

We are exploring several other methods to deliver content, but we have a solid platform for now. I expect new innovations will come as a result of this period of on-line learning. The everchanging landscape that his environment has created will force us to be flexible. We will continue to monitor and adjust as this situation continues to unfold.

Finally, and most importantly, we have begun our earnest prayers for the health of your son or daughter and your extended family. Prayer is always our first and best answer.

Peace and all good,

Erick Chittle, Ph.D.