



April 6, 2020

St. Helena Families and Friends:

Welcome back to e-Learning from a rather extraordinary Spring Break and blessings to you all during Holy Week. I enjoyed seeing some of the creative ways families found to spend their time together. I just finished a busy Monday full of virtual meetings ( 5 scheduled/4 completed) but one of my favorites was with our fabulous teachers. They are all working hard to maintain some sense of normalcy and striving to stay in touch with students. We've all learned a great deal in the last few weeks, and I want to inform you of a few changes in the weeks ahead.

**Things to look for:**

- We will soon be sharing Parent Tutorial videos on some of the common platforms teachers are using for e-Learning.
- I will be scheduling grade-level Parent Zoom meetings to touch-base with you all and hear about your successes and concerns. Please, don't be shy & join us!

**Elementary classes:** will continue to stress the core subjects of reading, writing, math, and religion and provide engaging, grade-level science and social studies lessons.

**Middle School classes:** we are adopting an MWF/TTh alternating schedule. *This will be sent to you via your homeroom teacher.* The adjustments we're making are to ensure ample time for students and teachers to adjust to e-Learning, allow reasonable work time, and prevent overload for everyone.

Please remember that keeping to a schedule is the best practice for your children. Virtual meetings with teachers are not to be considered *optional*. It is good for all of us to see familiar faces and check-in multiple times a week, if not daily. If a student does not login to a scheduled meeting, this is brought to my attention and I will follow up to check-in with both the student and parents. If possible, keep communication with teachers to email, or their preferred format, and at a reasonable time of day.

I spent a lovely hour today in a video conference with Bishop Cozzens where he provided some well-needed spiritual support for principals. I encourage you to pause and take some time this

week to spend with Our Lord. Take advantage of the many digital resources provided to us during our most Holy Week. Our suffering during this difficult time does not go unheard. God is with us.

**Upcoming Schedule:**

**Friday, April 10** - Good Friday/No School

**Thursday, April 16** - End of the 3rd Quarter

**Friday, April 17** - No School/Grading day for teachers

I miss working face-to-face with our teachers, students, and parents more than I can say. I am praying for your family's well-being and looking forward to the day I will see you all in person again.

And as always, please feel free to contact me with *any* questions or concerns.

Together in Christ,

Mrs. Ellen Rian

Principal

**RESOURCES:**

**ONLINE OPPORTUNITIES DURING HOLY WEEK:**

With public Masses suspended, the faithful face a particularly challenging Holy Week this year. Many in the Church have risen to this challenge, offering local and national retreats, reflections and other online opportunities to continue gathering the Church help Catholics to make Holy Week meaningful for you and your family.

<https://www.archspm.org/holyweekonline/>

**HOLY WEEK RESOURCE FOR FAMILIES:**

<https://archspmmainsite.s3.amazonaws.com/News/COVID19/Holy+Week+Resource+Guide.pdf>