



Remote Learning at St. Martin's

To help contain the spread of COVID-19, St. Martin's will be committed to remote teaching and learning. Since our transition into this mode, we have created this set of common principles, strategies, and expectations to ensure educational continuity for our preschool through middle school community. We appreciate and understand there is a level of parental involvement being assumed at this time, and are most grateful to each family for acknowledgement of these ideals as we work together to facilitate learning.

Principles for Remote Learning

At St. Martin's our approach to education is highly personal: hands-on, individualized, and supportive. As we have grown into this new way of being and learning remotely, we believe that preserving and strengthening relationships and connections comes first. We offer the following four principles to guide us:

Balance: We recognize this crisis is impacting the emotional well-being of every member of our community. We prioritize balance and connection whenever possible. Everyone needs to know what they can and can't do from day to day, and communication is critical to our ability to be responsive and supportive to one another.

Empowerment: We wish to empower students in this time away to set goals and access what is offered by St. Martin's at a pace that fits their own needs and those of their personal family schedules. As we near the end of the school year, we will ask students to reflect on their distance learning and review how they have grown and where they will need support in the next school year.

Flexibility: We see this Remote Learning period as a marathon and not a sprint; we will develop our approach with students over time. We will balance synchronous and asynchronous teaching so that students and teachers can connect virtually and students can move at their own pace. We aim to offer predictability and flexibility so that children can thrive.

Connection: We believe that learning remotely does not remove what we value as a community and the ability to truly know, value, and love each child.

Strategies for Remote Learning Success

- ✓ Establish a school day routine for your child. Recommended start time is 8:30am.
- ✓ Review weekly plans with student on Sunday. Each evening, review classes and assignments completed and the plan for the following day.



- ✓ Keep a weekly and daily schedule complete with assignments, meetings, chores, and outside activities.
- ✓ Choose a quiet workspace with few distractions for your child. Students should be able to sit upright and have a surface for a computer or tablet, books, and writing paper.
- ✓ Keep school materials and utensils within reach of the workspace.
- ✓ Remember lunch. Lunches made and cleaned up by students are the best!
- ✓ Maintain a steady bedtime free from electronics. Students still require 8 – 10 hours of sleep to promote health and maintain good work potential and positive behaviors.

Student Expectations for Remote Learning

- ✓ Attend all scheduled Zoom classes. Please email teachers proactively about absences.
- ✓ Turn in work electronically by the due date and using the correct format and platform.
- ✓ Follow all St. Martin's Acceptable Technology Use Guidelines. The expectation is students will display the same responsibility as if they were in the school building.
- ✓ Demonstrate respect and active listening with your teachers and classmates at all times. Please dress appropriately for learning, avoid eating, and mitigate background distractions and noise. At the middle school level, teachers will resort to individually-established conduct and participation standards for live video sessions.
- ✓ Communicate pro-actively with teachers. Teachers are available during the academic day to meet with students and parents and answer questions.
- ✓ Keep a positive attitude and participate actively. We are all working together!
- ✓ Try your best and take care of yourself!

Family Reminders

- ✓ Read all emails from the school and teachers.
- ✓ Teachers will send the learning plan for the following week on Fridays. Zoom will be the main platform for interactive class meetings.
- ✓ Communicate with teachers with any questions, concerns, feedback, and positive comments. SMES wants parents to contact their children's teachers. Remember that teachers will be communicating with dozens of other families, and that communications should be essential, succinct, and self-aware.
- ✓ Take breaks throughout the day. Incorporate outside, free play-time, and non-screen time into your family's daily schedule.
- ✓ Beyond check-ins at the start and end of each day, parents should circle back and engage with their children about what they're learning. It's important that your children own their work; don't complete assignments for them, even if they are struggling.
- ✓ Remember core values as a school at this time. We commit to seeking confidence, character, and compassion whether physically at school or learning remotely.