



ELEMENTARY COMMUNICATION

March 16, 2020

Dear Elementary Parents,

I hope my email finds you all well as we embark on this new journey together. Your teachers are working on plans for the continuing education of the students. As each of the programs and grades in Elementary have slightly different needs, please read the information below carefully. We are planning to move the curriculum forward, to the best of our ability, through the means described below. This will begin in earnest on Wednesday, March 18th.

We will begin our day tomorrow with an email from your homeroom teachers. In that email, he or she will provide an overview of what they are putting in place and how they will move forward with you; this might include virtual lessons, videos, links, worksheets, reading, and other means. Some of this will require technology. If you are being asked to do something that is not possible because you do not have that technology or if you are having any technological issues, please do communicate with your teacher to see what other options may work.

For our Junior Kindergarten to Grade 2 students, the teachers are preparing a working package for you that you will be able to pick up between 1:00 p.m. and 3:00 p.m., at the school on Tuesday, March 17 or Wednesday, March 18 between 9:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. or 1:00 p.m. and 3:00 p.m.. We recognize that the use of technology is more difficult at these ages, so we hope to alleviate some of that difficulty with this package. Moving forward, we will likely need to use email to deliver school work, which may require you to print at home. If you do not have a printer, please be sure your teacher is aware of this so your teacher can support you. Your teachers may also send you links/websites to supporting material and resources as the lessons are developed further.

In Grades 3 - 6, the teachers will be using technology. We will take advantage of the many options offered by the Google Education Suite and other resources, websites, and programs. In the past, my experience suggests that if you have a gmail account, it is much easier to access the information that is sent via links for the Google Education

Suite. Your children all have google accounts with passwords, and you can use those to access the information too. Your teachers will provide you with that information in their communication to you.

For all Elementary grades, the teachers may take advantage of technology by using multimedia, internet resources/links, video clips, and so forth. To help our teachers manage their time, we have asked them to be available to you via email from 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. and from 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m., provided they are not conducting a virtual lesson. Please be in contact with them if you have any questions. Likewise, Coline Vos and myself will both be available to help you navigate. I anticipate that there will be growing pains as we are all new to the idea of teaching remotely. I ask for your patience and flexibility as we work through these new initiatives. Initially there will be quite a bit of work for our teachers preparing their lessons to be effective in this manner; moving forward, it should become easier as we learn what tools are available to us, what is most effective, and how our students are responding.

Starting Wednesday, March 18, we have asked our teachers to begin the day with an email to you at 8:30 a.m. and to do so each following morning. This email will have pertinent information for the upcoming day, timelines, and expectations. We do recognize that every family will be under different circumstances regarding who is available to help the students, and we will try to respond accordingly. Please keep us informed with feedback about how things are working for you.

May God bless you all and your loved ones. I am here to support you; please be in touch if you need anything at all.

Sincerely in Christ,

Lori Blais
Director of Education and Formation - Elementary