



Frequently Asked Questions

1. **My child is in 8th grade, what is the plan for the class of 2020 Graduation?** We understand how important this final year at STCS is for our upcoming 8th grade graduates. We are saddened that their experience will be different from years past, yet we are confident that we can make their final months at STCS special. Please know that planning is currently in the works. More details to come after Easter Break regarding how to be involved, picking up your child's cap, gown & yearbook, as well as virtual and social media event dates. We'll make sure to send the "Class of 2020" off on their next journey in a special way.
2. **Why are we continuing with Easter Break instead of maintaining school?** This has been a transition and a steep learning curve for all. We understand that some families may see this break as lost academic time, however the break is a welcomed one and essential before the teachers and students (and parents) enter into the final stretch of the year. The time and energy that our teachers have put into their distance learning has required increased prep work than it did in the classroom. This short Easter break gives all of us permission to pause, focus on God and return to school renewed and ready to hit the ground running.
3. **Will the Distance Learning Program negatively impact my child's grades or their progress for next year?** No, it should not. We understand that this transition comes at an important time in the school year and is typically filled with assessments, projects, and final preparations to send students to the next grade. The teachers have done a wonderful job of preparing your child through this year and they will continue to do so during these upcoming final weeks of distance learning. If your child is logging in each day to Google Classroom (3rd -8th grade only), continues to complete daily assignments and tasks, view teacher provided online instructional videos (live or recorded), communicates regularly with his/her teachers, and reaches out with questions then they will continue to be successful. The material provided by the teacher will continue to provide students with high quality instruction. This is a transition for all our teachers. We thank you in advance for your patience as they continue to adapt and improve their online instruction. (See questions below for specific details regarding STCS's distance Learning Protocol.)
4. **Will my child's subjects be graded as Pass/Fail?** Only the specials will be graded as pass/fail at this time. The instruction and assessments that the homeroom teachers provide allows for student participation, daily practice, some assessments and even some projects and therefore can be graded as normal. The only difference you may see

in your child's Renweb gradebook is a reduction in assignments grades. As teachers adjust their lessons and online tasks they are measuring and assessing student's understanding and knowledge of the material. How the teachers allow the students to practice or measure their learning will look different than what you typically saw your child bring home during the normal school year.

5. **Is my child receiving enough classroom instruction?** As we shift to a distance learning approach the teachers must also shift their instruction, assignments and assessments for the students. The student's tasks, assignments and teacher delivery of lessons take on a different look yet still allow for the teacher to meet the Diocese of Phoenix standards and objectives in their lessons. The work asked of the student may also look different as the teachers seek to access the student's knowledge and understanding of an objective/standard. With the reduction in the students "specials" (P.E., Art, Music, Technology, Library, and Spanish) as well as eliminating passing periods, recesses, snack and lunch breaks, your child may complete their school day faster. This is not a reflection of the teacher's lack of planning but rather the ability for them to redirect the focus for the child's learning.
6. **Will my child have to make up the state testing requirements?** No, as of now all state testing has been waived. It will be determined later this year from the Diocese of Phoenix in collaboration with the Department of Education whether the students will makeup the test in the fall or if the state testing requirement will remain waved and resumed in the spring of 2021.
7. **How has STCS maintained quality education through distance learning?** We are committed to continuing to maintain STCS's caliber of instruction and student learning expectations through the remainder of the year. What makes STCS unique from other competitors in the Arcadia neighborhood is the dedication and Catholic faith of our teachers. The faculty hit the ground running so that there was no lapse in instructional time. The teachers had to navigate uncharted territory while still providing students with material. They continue to work on delivery of face-to-face instruction to our students while being available to students and parents via email or virtual meetings. Our teachers are striving to provide our students with academically rich material. Most importantly our teachers continue to foster a love of God and build on our Catholic foundation. This is so essential during this difficult time. We as a school community can find comfort in our faith and trust that God will continue to take care of us and provide for us. Our teachers continue to pray with and for our students, include the student's daily intentions, provide religion lessons that apply to the liturgical season and current pandemic. The teachers are also providing optional enrichment opportunities for students to grow in their faith at home, along with you!
8. **Do you have any suggestions for working parents who are juggling working, teaching and parenting during this time?** Every family is different in what works best for them, but setting a "schedule" at home is proven to reduce parent stress and provide children with consistency and a routine that is predictable. Carving out time to exercise

and get some fresh air and sunshine is also beneficial for all our mental health. Setting aside family time is also very important. This can take many forms such as a walk, family dinner together, playing a game, and riding bikes are just a few. Lastly and most importantly, praying together! This can be simple and done at night, in the morning, before a meal, etc. Adding additional moments for prayer together such as praying the rosary as a family, learning about a new saint, participating in a streamed Sunday Mass, or meditating on the stations of the cross all grow your love of God as a family.

9. **What is STCS Distance Learning Protocol?** At the start of our distance learning program after our school closed three weeks ago, our STCS Distance Protocol had been shared with the community. At that time this document was created for our temporary hiatus from campus. Since this closure has now been mandated through the end of the year, the protocol has been updated. [This document can be accessed here for your convenience](#). (Currently the faculty doc)
10. **What should I do if my child is sick?** Please email Mrs. Beth Rons in the STCS healthcare office AND your child's teacher to make them aware of the "absence" and allow them to better support the student in completing their assignments once they are healthy.
11. **With the closure lasting through the end of the school year when will I grab my child remaining supplies, APEX Fun Run prizes, and school yearbook?** At the end May we offer dates to pick up yearbooks, remaining APEX Fun Run prizes and any additional school supplies. This will also be the time to return any borrowed chromebooks or school textbooks. More details to come after Easter break.
12. **My child has a SSP, how will he/she continue to be supported?** ALL our STCS students' success during this transition time is very important to us. Please feel free to reach out for additional support from Mrs. Johnson at kjohnson@stcs.us or Mrs. Kreshock at skreshock@stcs.us. They are available. The teachers are working hard to create a "barrier free" distance learning experience for all our students.
13. **Is there any financial support available?**
CEA is extending the 2020-2021 application deadline to April 22nd to allow families additional tuition assistance for next year. All families are welcome to apply but will be asked to explain their hardship. Contact Mrs. Chapman at hchapman@stcs.us with additional questions
Website: <https://www.fairapp.com/>
School Code: 700
Password: cea700
If you have further financial concerns please contact Mrs. Zander at jzander@stcs.us.
14. **Will I get reimbursed for the purchased Shrek tickets or my program message for my child?** We are disappointed with the cancelation of the student's performance of Shrek. There was an immense amount of time and work that went into preparing for this

school production not only by the students, but the parent volunteers, music teacher, director, and event sponsors. We know that many of you had purchased tickets or prepaid for a photo/message in the program. We will happily reimburse you over the next few weeks for your purchase. Another option is to consider your purchase as a fully tax deductible general donation to STCS and acknowledgement letters will be mailed to you before the end of the tax year. We will, of course, refund anyone who requests full or portion reparation. Please [click here](#) to inform us of your decision regarding ticket purchases.

15. Do you have any suggestions for keeping my kiddos busy over the break?

- If your kiddos love arts and crafts, Joann and Michaels offer online orders that can be picked up curbside.
- If you have nature loving kiddos go on a family scavenger hunt outside or create a treasure hunt.
- Take a family picnic (keeping in mind social distancing).
- Our local public libraries are offering virtual fun for all ages. Check out their events calendar for further information.
- Take a virtual field trip to the zoo, aquarium, museum or National Park.
- For the foodies in your house pair up and have cupcake or cookie bakeoff!
- Read a chapter book out loud as a family!
- Write an old fashioned letter and send it via snail mail.
- Or check out some of these websites for more ideas!
 - <https://parade.com/1009774/stephanieosmanski/things-to-do-with-kids-during-coronavirus-quarantine/>
 - <https://www.reallifeathome.com/monthly-activity-printables-for-catholic-families/>
 - <https://www.catholicculture.org/commentary/holy-week-in-home-during-quarantine/>