

March 18, 2020

Greetings, St. Michael School community,

May the peace of Christ be with you and your families!

It seems that over the last few weeks we've all become more educated than we probably could have imagined about COVID-19, "flattening the curve," community spread, quarantine, self-monitoring, social distancing...and a new way of remote teaching and learning. While this global health crisis has clearly presented many, many life-altering challenges, it is not without opportunity to stretch and grow. Teaching and learning **WILL GO ON**, albeit not at 9101 S. 78th Street for the foreseeable future.

St. Michael teachers from preschool to 8th grade have been working tirelessly this week to conceptualize a learning experience for our students and families that is both manageable and meaningful. Our instructional focus is to identify the essential learning objectives in each content area and move learning forward to prepare students for the next grade level. Teachers are guided by end-of-the-year standards and will continue to make forward progress in the curriculum. You will receive an email from your child's teacher with directions for accessing remote learning opportunities, if you have not already.

We will be using the Power School Learning platform as our communication system. Each teacher will have a page that includes assignments, videos, links to other applicable websites, and a drop box for student work submission. We kindly ask for your patience as we transition to consistent use of this platform. Please be aware that because of extremely heavy use due to high demand across the country, Power School Learning is experiencing a degradation in services; they are currently working toward a solution.

For those who have not created a Power School Learning account, here are the directions:

In order to access your student's PowerSchool Learning account you must first set up your PowerSchool SIS account at www.powerschool.cdolinc.net/public and link to your child with their unique access codes. Please contact Katie Zaworski if you need assistance locating your child's access code and password.

If you have already created your PowerSchool Learning (PSL) account please visit the web address below and sign in with your existing username and password. This may not be the same credentials used for PowerSchool SIS.

- Visit <https://cdol.learning.powerschool.com>
- Scroll to the bottom and sign in with Username and Password under the PowerSchool Learning account.

To Create Your PowerSchool Learning (PSL) Account:

- Visit <https://cdol.learning.powerschool.com>
- Scroll to the bottom and click on "Forgot your Username or Password"

- On the following screen, enter the email address or the username that you already set up in PowerSchool and click submit.
- Check your email for a Diocese of Lincoln Schools password change request email and don't forget to check the junk/spam folder if you haven't seen the email after 5 minutes.
- Click the link in the email and follow the instructions to reset your password.
 - We recommend for the sake of simplicity that you use the same password as you set up in PowerSchool SIS although you may utilize a different password.
 - Remember that if you change your password for PowerSchool it is not automatically changed in PSL and vice versa.
 - If you forget your username or password for either PowerSchool sites please utilize the "forgot password" options. The school does not keep a record of your password and will be unable to retrieve it.
- Once you have successfully reset your password you should be able to return to <https://cdol.learning.powerschool.com> and login under the PowerSchool Learning account section in the bottom half of the login screen.

A curated list of online resources has been assembled by the diocesan Ed Tech office to help engage students in academic practice beyond what teachers may provide. <https://wakelet.com/@LincolnCatholicSchools>

If you do not have a computer in your home, you can request a loaner computer at this link: <https://www.piusx.net/covid19/parent-request-for-device/>

To help families facilitate online learning, free home internet service is currently being offered by Allo and Spectrum (Lincoln area): <https://www.1011now.com/content/news/Spectrum-to-offer-free-WiFi-to-college-K-12-students-impacted-by-closures-568778921.html>

<https://www.1011now.com/content/news/ALLO-offering-reduced-fees-other-changes-to-help-as-coronavirus-pandemic-continues-568838601.html>

We are sensitive to the fact that you may have multiple users attempting to access online resources and, therefore, have adjusted "work load" accordingly. We do not expect, nor do we recommend, that students spend all day sitting at a computer. As families begin to develop a daily routine for long-term remote learning, we suggest organizing the academic day in one-hour blocks, similar to what a student day resembles at St. Michael School. In addition to academic learning, we recommend plenty of time for prayer, reading, writing, movement, play, creative expression, family time, and acts of kindness and charity.

Growing in Faith

This new change of rhythm in our lives today can be an anxious time for children (and adults!) - unsettling, unpredictable, inconvenient. It might also be an opportunity, a gift, to savor the rare chance to slow down, rest in the quiet that seems to have descended on our neighborhoods and community, grow deeper in our Catholic faith, and draw strength, hope, and renewal from God's loving Word.

Consider adding to your child's daily routine...

- Mass at St. Michael Church, live-streamed on our St. Michael Catholic School Facebook page.
- [Coffee-N-Clerics](#) with Fr. Schwenka and Deacon Alex Sasse.
- [Magnificat](#) - complimentary access to their online version to help families pray at home. MagnifiKid provides many activities and suggestions for how to "live the entire week with the Lord."

Opportunities to Practice Kindness Like Christ

Amid all the current change, challenge, and chaos, there are many opportunities for us, as a Catholic school, to be His missionary disciples, to be the very real body of Christ. What can your family do to minister to others during this global health crisis?

- It's Fr. Schwenka's birthday on FRIDAY! Remember him in your prayer intentions. How about celebrating him with something special? Homemade cards, drawings, pictures, cookies...and you know how much he loves CANDY! If you'd like to drop off a birthday surprise for Fr. Schwenka, the office will be open all day Friday. We will be sure he gets your special birthday wishes. You might also make a short birthday video greeting - maybe even with song and dance! - and send it to Sue-Braun@cdolinc.net and we will post it to our Facebook page.
- Donate food packages. Please consider putting together a food package in one or two shopping bags, in a box, or in some other container. Each package provides a week's worth of groceries to a family of four, and should include the items below. Pius X will receive packages from 7:30am to noon each day in the Pius Commons (enter Door 4). If you are unable to deliver the package to us, Pius staff can pick up if you call the school.

Here is the suggested list of items for each food package:

- 1 box of cereal OR 1 box of oatmeal OR 1 box of complete pancake mix with a bottle of syrup
- 1 jar of jelly
- 1 jar of peanut butter
- 1 loaf of bread
- 4 boxes of macaroni & cheese
- 2 packets of microwaveable popcorn
- 4 cans of soup
- 1 box of crackers OR 1 bag of oyster crackers
- 10 packets of kool aid/or powder drink mix of your choice
- 10 packages of ramen noodles (not spicy)

- 2 package of spaghetti OR 1 box of pasta
- 2 jar of pasta sauce
- 2 cans of tuna
- 1 box of tuna helper
- 4 cans of cooked pasta (example: spaghetti o's)
- 4 canned veggies
- 4 canned fruits OR apple sauce
- 1 bag of rice
- 1 bag of dry beans
- 1 package of cookies or animal crackers
- 1 box of fruit snacks
- 1-2 other snack items of your choice (please nothing that requires refrigeration/freezer or will spoil very fast)

In other announcements...that you probably already know:

- Confirmation & First Holy Communion have been postponed until further notice.
- All school & parish events are suspended until further notice.
- Chess tournament has been cancelled.
- If families are in need of food assistance:
 - Any family can request a week's worth of groceries by visiting this link: <https://www.piusx.net/covid19/request-week-of-groceries/>
 - Lincoln Public Schools Nutrition Services will provide a sack lunch and breakfast for any student at any of the locations below. One meal per student will be available between the hours of 11:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. while supplies last.
 - Belmont Elementary School (3425 North 14th St.) Door 8
 - Arnold Elementary School (5000 Mike Scholl Street) Door 10
 - Hartley Elementary School (730 North 33rd St.) Door 8
 - (NEW) Calvert Elementary School (3709 S. 46th St.)
 - Park Middle School (855 South 8th St.) Door 5
 - Northeast High School (2635 North 63rd St.) Door 35
 - Lincoln High School (2229 J Street) Door 44
 - Granite City restaurant is offering free lunch to every child. No purchase necessary.
- St. Michael School will offer families on-site childcare in partnership with Family Service Lincoln beginning Monday, March 23. Registration information is [here](#).

This is all new territory for all of us! We are all learning new things. Hopefully, this week has given your family time to adjust to life changes beyond our control. New schooling routines and remote learning at home will take time to settle into so be patient, give abundant grace, and do not hesitate to contact us if we can be of any assistance.

Lord, we are open to your amazing possibilities!

Thank you for your prayers and support of our mission at St. Michael School to CONTINUE to **LEARN, SERVE, LEAD, SUCCEED...BE HIS DISCIPLES!**

+Blessings,

Sue