

March 26, 2020

Dear St. Michael families,

We pray you are well and settling into new routines at home. Please know you have been on the hearts and in the prayers of the priests, teachers and staff at St. Michael School.

Following Directed Health Measures, issued by the Lincoln-Lancaster County Health Department on March 25, St. Michael School is **extending school closure through** May 6, 2020. We continue to meet as a building team on a daily basis, follow the Governor's daily press conference, and the Commissioner of Education and Diocese of Lincoln Chief Academic Officer's weekly teleconferences to stay abreast of changes in local and state guidelines for operation. We will continue to share updates as necessary.

General Announcements

Report Cards: Third quarter report cards from grade 1-8 students are now available through the PowerSchool Parent Portal. From there, you can access your student's grades and any comments from teachers. Kindergarten report cards will be sent via email.

Day Care: Do you need a safe place for your child(ren) as you return to work or need a day or two of quiet time to work from home? We remain OPEN to registration and Family Service still has plenty of space available for child care at St. Michael School. We follow all state and local protocols and provide a safe, fun, caring place for your child (ages 4-14) in groups no bigger than 10. Registration is on a week-to-week basis. Register at: https://daycareworks.com/registr.../lincoln/start_registration

From the School Counselor: During these very unique and uncertain times, children (and adults) can experience a range of emotions that might include fear, anxiety, sadness and even anger. If you are in need of assistance, please contact Nikki Wemhoff at Nikki-Wemhoff@cdolinc.net. Attached are 2 activities that might help address social-emotional needs in your home. Students may choose to complete one or both activities and send them to Mrs. Wemhoff. There might even be a surprise for those who return their sheets!

Library Check Out: In an effort to make books available to students, we are making our library available to you remotely. Library book pick up days will be on Fridays, from 10am-12pm, beginning Friday, April 3rd. Friday, May 1st will be our LAST checkout day of the school year and we will not be open on Good Friday (April 10th). Instructions on how to check out are below. If you have any questions, please email Miss Kottwitz at melanie-kottwitz@cdolinc.net.

St. Michael School Library Access Instructions

1. Visit destiny.cdolinc.net and click on "St. Michael, Lincoln".
2. Once there, you may either use the search bar or click on "Destiny Quest" on the left-hand side of the page. Students use Destiny Quest at school because it's more user-friendly, but either one will work.
3. Email Miss Kottwitz at melanie-kottwitz@cdolinc.net with the titles you'd like to check out.

4. Book requests must be made by Thursdays at noon to guarantee they will be ready Friday morning.
5. Students will not be able to browse the school library. The designated times are only for parents and students to pick up the books they have requested.
6. Any books returned at this time will be sanitized according to CDC recommendations.

Nutrition Support: Pius X High School has now been approved as a site to provide lunches to children ages 1-18. We welcome all children. Curb-side delivery is available every Tuesday from 11:00am-1:00pm. Each child will be given five days of lunches, once per week. The child need not be present. Names of children will need to be given so reimbursed can be secured through the federal lunch program.

Pius is in urgent need of food and donations. If you have the means, please bring food or money to Pius, main door between 7:30am and 3pm, to disperse to hungry families.

Remote Learning: Week 1

Teachers developed very robust and meaningful instruction for students this first week of remote learning with the goal of continuing forward progress in the curriculum. We understand and are sensitive to the fact that it will take families time to organize schedules, assignments, resources, and devices and determine at what level of independence students are capable. Be assured that we are monitoring the issues and challenges that remote learning presents and will make modifications to plans as necessary. We are currently discussing grading practices and will soon have an explanation of how student work will be evaluated. Please know that we are committed to finding a good balance of pace, workload, mode of instruction, and independence level.

We are keenly aware that these are not normal circumstances under which we are all working. Therefore, normal expectations, normal schedules, normal timelines will simply not translate to the home learning environment. If you feel a need to adjust the assigned workload due to your family's unique situation, please do that. We recommend an appropriate balance between online work, paper-pencil tasks, project-based learning, movement, and creative expression through art and music. The specialist teachers have posted many excellent enrichment activities from which parents and students can choose. Our aim is not to have students in front of a screen all day so please allow ample time to explore a variety of activities.

Parent feedback is invaluable in helping us know how we can better support students and families through this most unusual time in our school year. Please consider responding to the survey linked [here](#).

Ideas to Share

It has been a blessing to see and hear about the neat activities families have done to pray and serve together, establish new home learning routines, and maintain connections with their teachers and classmates. We have enjoyed sharing many with you on our school Facebook page. Please continue to share! Staying connected will be the glue that helps us make the most of these unusual days and weeks ahead.

- One family begins each day with a devotional reading and to help keep them connected to their classmates, they choose a different classmate and their family to pray for each day.
- In a family with multiple children, one family assigns core classes to be done individually and the children come together for Specials to keep from self-isolating.

We cannot adequately express our gratitude for the prayers, support, and patience we have received from our school community. THANK YOU! Our mission at St. Michael School continues to be **LEARN, SERVE, LEAD, SUCCEED...Be His Disciples**. Please do not hesitate to let us know how best we can continue to serve your family.

“Rejoice always, pray constantly, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.” 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

+Blessings to you all,

Sue

[2-SocialEmotionalLearningActivitiesBingoBoardFREE copy.pdf](#) [2-30ThingsWeCanDoForOurEmotionalHealthSELResourceSheet-2.pdf](#)