

THIS INSTITUTION IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY PROVIDER

Sunday, March 15, 2020

Dear St. Bernard's Family,

The last few days have been unprecedented for St. Bernard's School and for all of us as we prepare to contain the spread of COVID-19 / Coronavirus. We continue to be vigilant and review each update that is provided to us from the Diocese of Crookston, Thief River Falls School District #564, Minnesota Department of Health, and Minnesota Department of Education. Our goal as a district is to remain educated and collaborate to provide what our students need. We are extraordinarily grateful for our families who partner with us to make this community strong for our children. St. Bernard's School wants parents to know that our staff has been putting plans in place to continue to educate our students.

As determined by the Diocese of Crookston, there will be no school starting on Wednesday, March 18 – Friday, March 27. Please know that there is a possibility that these dates could change. Online / Distance learning will commence on Monday, March 23. From our Action Plan:

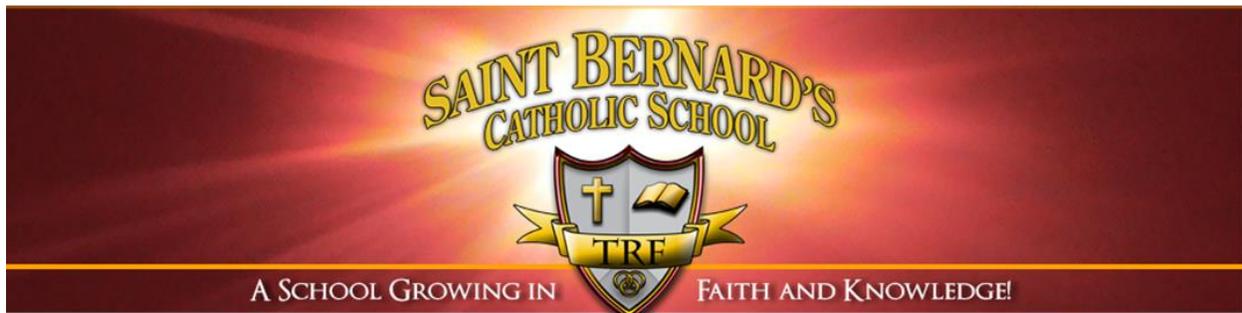
- The understanding is that while teachers, students, and parents, will make every effort to continue educational progress, extenuating circumstances can affect the pace and delivery of instruction. The goal is to be able to continue move the students forward the best we can considering the limitations placed upon the school, teachers, and families.
- Teachers may design their instruction to fit their respective grade levels considering the following:
 - Teachers should have email contact with their families and principal at least once a day, Monday – Friday.
 - Lessons should be on core subjects as deemed appropriate by the teacher.
 - Students may be assessed utilizing a variety of methods taking into consideration subject matter and technical supplies at their home. For example: In a math lesson, students may A. use an iPad to write on a scanned worksheet, B. they may print out the worksheet, fill it out with a pencil, take a picture of the finished product, and email it to their teacher, or C. respond to the assignment in a way agreed upon by the teacher.
 - Teachers can assign lessons once a day, once a week, or on a time frame of their choosing and communicated to the families.
 - Lessons will be assessed and be taken into consideration when calculating quarter grades.
 - Technology, Gym, and Music teachers will assign the same number of lessons / assignments per week as they would meet with students.
 - Students will complete assignments under the supervision of parents. Once completed, parents will sign off on the assignment as indicated by the teacher. In a virtual learning environment, students will need to take responsibility for their work and engagement. While set “class times” will not be held, teachers will regularly be sending learning activities and assignments and collecting those as evidence of your child's work during this time. Please communicate and support your students to work in this environment; in addition, if necessary, you may contact your child's teacher to communicate via email.
- The principal will have email contact with St. Bernard's teachers and families at least once a day, Monday – Friday in order to touch base and keep everyone up to date.

School Reinstatement

- Once school resumes, students should return with assignments completed and signed by parents.
- Teachers will informally and formally assess students to determine individual and class progress.
- Every attempt should be made to ensure that students, families, and staff's academic and emotional needs are met.

117 Knight Ave. N, Thief River Falls, MN 56701 ~ (218)681-1539 ~ stbernardstrf.com

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Other Changes

- Blarney Bowling and the Rummage Sale will not be canceled but will be postponed to a later date.
- The end of the quarter is still currently on for Friday, March 27. We will do our best to figure out grades with the information we have.
- As of now, St. Bernard's will still be having our Fish Fry on Friday, March 20. It will be different in that we will be only doing deliveries and carry out. This week, St. Bernard's School is in charge of clean up so it would be great if we could have helpers that night. THANKS! Just click on the link for the sign up - <http://bit.ly/StBFishFry>
- I received word from Thief River Falls Public School Superintendent Bradley Bergstrom that Latchkey daycare will be made available for children of health care and emergency workers.
- Thank you to everyone who filled out the Home Technology Survey – it will help us greatly in our planning. If you have not filled out the form, please go to this case sensitive link as soon as you can. Thanks!
<http://bit.ly/StBTechSurvey>

Recommendations

- The best thing that we can all do for our children is to provide a sense of stability during this time. Here are a few tips:
- Set up a schedule with your child where there are consistent times for academics, down time, reading, and out of doors. Also, try to have a consistent sleep schedule.
- Try to provide opportunities for your child to have some sort of contact (facetime, phone, text, email) with their friends. At the same time, please monitor your child's communications to ensure they are appropriate.
- It is **very** important to limit screen time and make sure your children get physical activity. You can even just say, "Time for recess!"
- Even young children can help with chores!
- Mix things up! There are so many things that kids can do which are not on-line! Let their imaginations soar!

I want to close by sharing how grateful I am to each and every one of you as we have navigated this challenging situation together. Further, I want to remind each of us that here at St. Bernard's, we care for one another and support one another. We have community members who are even now anxious about exposure risks. Let us not forget to both act with precaution and be careful with our own health. Let's also remember to be gentle with one another. We will continue to have challenges in front of us, and I know we can meet these challenges; together, all things are possible.

Many blessings,

Laura Brickson, M.S.Ed.
Principal – St. Bernard's Catholic School
laura.brickson@stbernardstrf.com
"Go, Make a Difference!"