



ST. ROSE OF LIMA CATHOLIC ACADEMY

A Catholic EL Education School
Forming Excellent Catholic Scholars and Faithful Disciples of Jesus

March 27, 2020

Dear Parents and Guardians,

What an incredible two weeks this has been! We are truly appreciative of all your efforts during our distance learning these last two weeks. As you will read in the letter from the Office of Catholic Schools, we are going to be distance learning for the time being. There are a few changes and updates to what that looks like at St. Rose.

Minute Reduction

In conjunction with the Archdiocese of Denver, we have been allowed to reduce the number of minutes for each grade level. Please see below:

Pre-K = 2 hrs a day + 30 min of faith formation (family participation)
K-2 = 2.5 hrs a day + 30 min of faith formation (family participation)
3-5 = 3.5 hrs a day + 30 min of faith formation (family participation)
6-8 = 4.5 hrs a day + 30 min of faith formation (family participation)
All specials (Technology, Art & P.E.) will be on Wednesdays.

iPads and Screen Time

As a general premise, we are handing out iPads to parents, and not students. We are sending home a letter that explains how to connect them to your wifi, and we hope to reduce the amount of hours that students need to be in front of them. We recognize that the pickup of materials needs to be reduced and so we are leveraging every device we have available to support distance learning. Please know that we are still learning the best ways for students to learn using technology, but overall, students should primarily be doing reading, math, and faith formation with their families. The technology used should be resources for enhancing education and communicating with teachers. We will be sending home a survey on Friday, April 3rd to see how the reduction of minutes has been.

Communication expectations

Our greatest hope is that your child will be able to do more of the learning and communicating moving forward. Our PreK-2nd grade level will be using SeeSaw as their digital learning platform. 3rd-8th grade will be using Google Classroom which has already been communicated to most students.

Our expectations for communication are as follows:

- students should be checking email or looking at SeeSaw daily.
- students should be turning in work/assignments according to when teachers request it
- students should be reaching out to their teachers weekly to communicate
- all resources (iPads, chargers, textbooks, etc.) will be returned at the end of distance Learning.

Parents are always welcome to communicate concerns, ideas, questions to teachers but we hope that with the distance learning platforms we have chosen, students will be able to communicate more readily. Teachers have office hours daily and will be able to help during the weekdays, and our expectation is that they make every attempt to respond within 24 hours of receiving a message. As we previously mentioned, expect a Google Survey coming home on April 3rd to check in.



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Technology Updates

We will be sending home student iPads and as many chargers as we can this upcoming Monday, March 30th. We ordered additional charging cables, but were recently informed that they were on backorder. At this time, we only have the capacity to send home 1 charger per family, and ask that if you have one at home, that you do not take an extra for now. The chargers are the standard iPhone USB-C cable, and are available at most grocery stores. We appreciate your patience during these extraordinary times. All resources must be returned to school by the end of distance learning or we will charge your tuition account according to the technology policy signed at the beginning of the school year. If you need the internet, Comcast is offering 60 days free internet to new customers because of the crisis. You can sign up here: <https://www.internetessentials.com/> (click "language" to switch to Spanish).

Grading Update

We will also be instituting a new grading policy for the third trimester. Moving forward, we are going to a pass/fail system for the third trimester. This means that your child will receive grades in reading and math. Students will pass or fail based on the following expectations:

- not picking up work or returning work on Mondays
- not emailing teachers or checking email
- not communicating to teachers (email, Dojo, SeeSaw, etc.)
- not engaging with distance learning

If you have any concerns regarding your child's readiness for the next grade, or how teachers are grading work, please discuss with your child's teacher first. We can then have a discussion regarding your child's progress, academics, and the amount of time spent on classwork.

Friday Communication

You can expect communication from the St. Rose administrators every Friday. We will try to update you as to any changes or positive news to share. We thank you for your dedication to our community and your willingness to collaborate with us.

Our next pick up/drop off will be Monday, March 30th from 7 to 4

Pickups this week will primarily be for getting technology, returning work and Pre-K packets. We are moving towards digital learning for all grades except Pre-K at this time due to technology limitations, and an awareness of developmental needs.

Spring Break

Our Spring Break will still be Thursday April 9th- Sunday, April 19th. There will be no assignments due that week. School work resumes Monday, April 20th.

St. Raphael's Counseling

Ms. Weakland has been working with the team at St. Raphael's Counseling to provide strategies to support families during these times of anxiety and stress. A PDF of their resources and strategies will be linked with this document.

Faith Formation

Below is a list of resources for faith formation. Faith formation moving forward is a time for you as a family to connect, pray, and be with God as your family sees fit. We hope that this daily 30 minutes is a requirement that your family feels comfortable sharing with each other. We look forward to you spending time as a family connecting with God during this difficult time.



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Here are some ideas for your 30 minutes of faith formation each day:

- Pray a rosary or the Stations of the Cross as a family
- Read, pray with and discuss the daily Mass readings (English and Spanish, under the “Bible” tab at usccb.org)
- Livestream Mass
 - St. Rose of Lima, Sunday at 9am (English) and 10:15am (Spanish) - <https://www.facebook.com/srlchurchdenver/> (no Facebook login required)
 - EWTN, every day at 6am, 10am, 5pm and 10pm - www.ewtn.com/tv/watch-live
- Catholic video, audio, and books on formed.org
- Listen to and discuss Catholic Sprouts daily podcasts for kids (YouTube channel = Catholic Sprouts) or other Catholic and Christian podcasts
- Watch and discuss saint stories (YouTube channel = Christian Kids TV) or Bible stories (YouTube channel = The Beginners Bible)
- Read about and discuss the saint of the day - franciscanmedia.org/source/saint-of-the-day
- Free daily and weekly resources and activities for the Catholic liturgical season and saint of the day from Sophia Institute - sophiainstituteforteachers.org/COVIDAtHomeLearning
- Catholic TV on EWTN - www.ewtn.com/tv/watch-live

Final Notes

As always, we are so blessed by the opportunity to continue working together through these challenging times. We are praying and preparing for the day that our community will be allowed to return together. Although we are far apart, we remain connected with you, and look forward to supporting in any way that we can. St. Rose of Lima, pray for us!

Humbly in Christ,

Tomas Gallegos
Principal

Kate Kelly
Assistant Principal