

Date: March 18, 2020

Topic: Distance Learning Standards and Expectations

Dear TFS parents and faculty/staff:

Thank you to each and every one of you for working together to get our Distance Learning off to a successful start this week. I know it has been challenging for families and your willingness to be supportive of our faculty and staff as we too learn to navigate these new times is greatly appreciated.

As you might imagine, there are many different family structures in our school community. A family with a kindergartner, a 2nd grader and a 4th grader with parents still being required to work in office will have a vastly different experience from a family with parents who are working from home with one 8th grader. We are trying to accommodate most situations, but there is no “one-size-fits-all.”

Last week in our faculty planning sessions, the focus was to provide content in Science, Math, Social Studies, Language Arts and Religion. This was initially targeted to be 2-3 hours a day (based on grade level) of total time for all subjects combined. As per the Diocesan Schools Office, we are to provide significant content to be able to keep the students on pace and learning, and we have been asked to track “instructional time” as best we can.

We have received questions about providing books and materials from the media center or other locations. At this time, we are not providing non-employee access to the school buildings. We want to be sure that our spaces continue to be clean and free of the virus ahead of any potential return. If you need personal materials or textbooks from lockers or other areas, please contact [Mike](#), [Michele](#) or [Colette](#).

We are just getting up and started on day three, and welcome your feedback to the teachers and to the school administration while we continue to refine and collaborate to provide our Distance Learning content. I know there are group discussions on personal or other social media, but please remember that accurate and up-to-date information is always available directly from the school. Additionally, all communications from us are available on our COVID-19 [page](#) on the school website.

On behalf of the faculty and staff please know we remain appreciative of your understanding, flexibility, and patience as we all work together to address your students’ success.

Sincerely,

Michael Watson
Principal at The Franciscan School