



Lebanon Catholic

SCHOOL

Dear LC Family,

So here we go! While predicted, Friday's announcement canceling school in response to COVID-19 for PA schools happened quickly and threw us all into a bit of uncharted territory! I am grateful to the team at LC for anticipating and preparing for this closure, and for their commitment to seeing that it runs as smoothly as possible. I am also grateful to you as parents, as I know that 'home-schooling' was not in your educational plan.

If you are anything like me, there is a bit of nervous energy around the coming weeks. As we share concern for the most vulnerable in our community, we also navigate the temporary but very real upheaval to our normal lives. So, let's approach it as we have other challenges...as a family and in faith. We are all in this together, and we will work out the kinks, share best practices, and adapt as necessary. While we do our part to keep our families and community safe-to flatten the curve and slow the transmittal of sickness, we will also ensure that learning continues. In addition, I hope that we continue to build community and pray together...more on that below...we have some ideas!

FLEXIBLE INSTRUCTION DAYS:

Our faculty have been preparing for the expected use of extended Flexible Instruction Days. They have been getting their classes ready for this situation and preparing substantive assignments. They may have even learned a new skill or two themselves in how to teach virtually! We have ensured that the secondary students have the logins and passwords they need for their Gmail and Rediker portals. In anticipation of the closure announcement, we also gathered the secondary students Friday afternoon to review the expectations we have of them for attendance, completion of work, and going home prepared.

Flexible Instruction Days (FIDs or Flex Days) have been approved by the State to allow us to continue instruction without being gathered in the school building. They should enable us the flexibility to learn from home for the time-being, and still complete the school year.

At this point here are some suggestions:

1. **IF YOU HAVE QUESTIONS...ASK EARLY!** If you are having any issues with connectivity, logins, communication, access etc...please contact us. For elementary issues, contact your classroom teacher. For secondary, encourage your students to proactively engage with their teachers through email and their portal. If they cannot, or it's a bigger question than simply classwork...contact Mr. Shay, Mrs. Williams or myself.

2. Attendance- Hold your kids accountable for daily work, because their teachers will. That's how we will take daily attendance. And yes, daily attendance is important; it's how we will account for these instructional days. We must hit >80% attendance each day.

3. I suggest a daily schedule. This will help keep some structure over the next 10 school days. Remember...this isn't spring break!

4. We are working on some ways to stay in contact with one another as a school community! **We plan on going live at 9:00am each day with virtual morning prayer, Pledge of Allegiance and announcements to start your 'school day'!** Of course this is not mandatory, but we will have some creative challenges and ways for your student and your family to participate. **You can catch the live video on our Lebanon Catholic Facebook page at 9:00am each day, and then the recording will be posted to YouTube and a link sent out for those who do not have Facebook access.** We hope to have some fun with this!

5. We are also working on a communal Stations of the Cross for Friday that will allow our community to come together in prayer from our own homes. More on that later...

SOME REMINDERS & RESOURCES:

I fully expect that we will need to adapt as information and situations in our community and nation unfolds. We will do our best to keep regular updates and resources on our webpage.

I continue to get situation reports from the Lebanon County Department of Emergency Services.

Many companies are pitching in from putting out free web resources to making access to the internet available to families in need. We will post these on our website.

We are also concerned about members of our own community. If you are or know of a family in need during this time, I have people who are willing to help. If you are people who are willing to help....let me know that too!

MATERIALS & MEDICATIONS:

We understand that some students were absent on Friday and may not have collected the materials they need to be out for 2 weeks. We also realize that some of you recently dropped off prescription medications for students that you may need. I will have office hours from 12:30-2:30pm on Monday, March 16th to accommodate pick-up of these items. Should you need to make other arrangements, please contact me.

IN THE BUILDING:

Maintenance staff will work to disinfect the building over the next 2 weeks. We are using a product approved by the EPA. The building will not be open to students and families.

SPIRITUAL:

We are working on a communal Stations of the Cross for Friday!

There are resources for praying at home and keeping the Sabbath as a family. These will be posted on our webpage.

SPORTS & ACTIVITIES:

There will be no activities or sports over the next two weeks. For now, all field trips and

gathered activities through April 15th will not take place. We hope to reschedule many of these- including the Spring Musical, "Little Women."

While we don't know what the next weeks will bring, we do know that we are good at supporting one another! The prayer I shared Friday will be my mantra for the near future!

*Lord, help us
be prepared, but not anxious,
be aware, but not desperate,
be vigilant, but not in fear
be joyful, but not clueless,
be faithful, but not careless.
Lord, be our hope and strength.*

SEE YOU (ONLINE) TOMORROW MORNING AT
9:00AM!!

Blessings,
Mrs. Waters