

Holy Spirit Catholic School Plans for Distance Learners

Plans for Distance Learners While We Are on Campus

Who Will Be Distance Learning

Distance learning will be in place for any students who are showing COVID-19 symptoms or who have had exposure to someone who has tested positive or students who have recently traveled to a place considered to be a “hotspot” for COVID-19 spread. Families who are in this situation should contact the school to arrange a contact-free pick up of their students’ supplies for distance learning.

Parents may also select distance learning if they are concerned about the safety of sending their children to school because of COVID-19. For the start of the school year, parents will let the school know their choice of in-person or distance learning by August 1.

Families that begin with distance learning will not need to commit to a whole semester of distance learning, but may switch to in-person learning when they feel ready. Families will need to notify the school at least two school days before the change to in-person learning. This will allow for time to prepare the classroom for the additional student.

Families who have chosen in-person learning may also choose to switch to distance learning if they begin to feel uncomfortable with the spread of COVID-19 in our area, but this should be a carefully thought out decision, and families may not switch back and forth frequently.

Methods for Distance Learning, Grades K-8

Materials

Students will all be supplied with a chromebook for use in school or during distance learning. Families choosing to start the school year with distance learning will have a time before school starts when they can come pick up their child’s chromebook, textbooks, and workbooks.

Instruction

Our first choice is to use Google Meets during the school day so that distance learners can participate in real time with their classmates. Distance learners will be able to see and hear the

same instruction that in-person learners get, and they will also be able to ask questions and interact with their teacher and their peers. The Google Meets will also be recorded and posted on Google Classroom for distance learners who are not able to participate in real time.

Assignments

Distance learners will do the same activities and assignments as on-campus learners to the extent that it is possible. Documents needed for assignments will be posted to Google classroom so that they will be ready for the distance learners each day. Assignments will be turned in through Google Classroom.

Flexible Schedule

We recognize that circumstances at home may make it difficult for some students to participate at the time of the Google Meets. For those students, the Google Meets will be recorded and posted on Google Classroom. Teachers will also respond to student questions posted on Google Classroom or asked via FastDirect. Distance learners may turn in assignments one day later than the due date for on-campus learners.

Methods for Distance Learning, Preschool

Weekly newsletters for distance learners will include activity suggestions. The activity suggestions will follow the same curriculum that the students who are attending school in person will do. There are also a few items, such as “My Big World Magazine” that can be picked up from school in a contact-free pickup.

Plans for Whole-School Distance Learning

Only for if an outside authority orders our school building to go to reduced capacity or to close.

Hybrid Plan

If the county places a limit on in-person class size, we will adjust to a hybrid plan, with two groups of students each attending two days a week in person and distance learning three days. All students in each family will be kept on the same schedule. (Groupings will be decided after families select in-person or distance learning.)

All Students do Distance Learning

In the event that our school is forced to close the building, all students will become distance learners. We hope this will not be necessary, but we will be prepared for this possibility.

Materials

All students will be given a school chromebook to use at home during distance learning. All materials necessary for distance learning will be sent home with students on the last day before distance learning if we know about the closure ahead of time. If not, we will arrange a pick-up time for families to come get students' materials. This pick-up time will follow all guidelines recommended at that time by the St. Louis County Department of Public Health.

Instruction

Video lessons will be posted by the teachers at the start of each day, and daily Google Meet sessions will give students the opportunity to have an interactive lesson and to ask questions. Teachers will also answer questions posted on Google Classroom for any students who are not able to participate during the time of the Google Meet.

Assignments

Assignments will be posted to Google classroom each morning. Assignments will be turned in through Google Classroom.

Flexible Schedule

We recognize that circumstances at home may make it difficult for some students to participate at the time of the Google Meets. For those students, the Google Meets will be recorded and posted on Google Classroom. Teachers will also respond to student questions posted on Google Classroom or asked via FastDirect.