



ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE CATHOLIC SCHOOL

Nascantur in Admirazione

"Let Them Be Born in Wonder."

April 6, 2020

Boniface Term – Week I

April Virtue: Humility

School Year Theme: *Beatudinem* (Happiness)



~ Holy Week 2020~

Join Mr. DiLaura in the St. Thomas Monday Assembly for April 6th by visiting:

<https://youtu.be/kPSfjvMv5U8>

School-at-Home General Guidelines

With school closed for the remainder of the school year, we move to an online 'school-at-home' format for student learning. Our thanks to our teachers who have worked hard to develop the tools and procedures for conducting instruction online. Our thanks as well to our parents in your vital role in coordinating your children's learning schedule which was, of course, built naturally into our school day at school.

- To facilitate parent coordination of your child(ren)'s learning, please find attached a **St. Thomas General Video Lesson Schedule** for each grade and day of the week when teachers will be conducting scheduled lesson activities involving students participating in live Zoom online video lessons. Should this schedule develop over the next two weeks while we move to a regular schedule of instruction, revised versions will be provided. Note the current date of April 6th on this version. You can also access the current online version [here](#). Over the next week—if you don't have them already—parents and students will be receiving reoccurring zoom meeting links from classroom and specials teachers which will be visited for each scheduled lesson.
- **The Lower School** grades will rely on parents and students to reference the **St. Thomas School Classroom Portal** pages to find all lesson activities and assignments. This will be carefully updated on a weekly basis to provide students and parents a 'one-stop', ongoing reference for all learning.
- **The Upper School** grades will continue to use their **Google Classroom** site to present all scheduled activities, recorded video lessons, and assignments. Parents are asked to regularly visit their child's classroom for details on their learning activities and schedule.
- Note that several teachers are providing **pre-recorded video lessons** which are being emailed or posted on the grade level St. Thomas Classroom Portal webpage or available on Google Classroom for the Upper School. These video lessons are not included in the schedule which are nonetheless a key component of teacher instruction and student learning. Teachers are expecting students to watch all provided recorded lessons.
- **Specials Classes** will continue with specials teachers providing a combination of live and recorded lesson meetings and activities. Spanish and Art will be providing a weekly email with a description of the weeks activities, following their scheduled of lessons as given in the General Video Lesson Schedule. Choir and Latin will be following their schedule of meetings as in the General Video Lesson Schedule with students provided Latin assignments as given in each lesson.
- **Workload Guidelines** will be followed in order to help teachers, parents and students plan their time for learning. Please note that this is a general guideline, some students may be able to complete their online lessons (with teachers) along with their assignments (on their own), in more or less time. We will evaluate these guidelines going forward and the time at home that our current level of learning activity will require.
 - Grades K-1: 60 - 90 minutes/day
 - Grades 2-3: 90 - 120 minutes/day
 - Grades 4-5: 120- 150 minutes/day
 - Grades 6-8: 150 - 180 minutes/day
- **Grading** of assignments, quizzes, tests, and participation in both core and specials classes will continue during our 'school-at-home' Boniface Term. Students are fully expected to participate in all online learning activities, both live and recorded. Students are expected to complete all assignments, quizzes and test and turn those in per teachers' direction following provided due dates. Our thanks to parents who, in some cases, are ask to correct any assessments per teacher instructions. Always feel welcome to contact your child's teacher if you have any questions regarding assignments or grading procedures. Grades will be entered in to PowerSchool for parent review as usual. Boniface Term report cards

will be published with all grades as in the past with end of year honors being awarded as in years' past.

- **Zoom Live Lesson Security** is a current issue that has arisen as the use of the Zoom video conferencing platform has dramatically increased with the nation's shift to online meetings. All our teachers will be implementing the safeguard of allowing only the host—the teacher—to share their screen with meeting participants. This will prevent the reported occurrence of outside participants joining a meeting (usually when such meetings have been made public on a social media platform), and sharing inappropriate screen content. Zoom has already increased their security in response to these circumstances as well.
- **Students Honor Code**—Our work at home is calling our students and family a new standard of taking responsibility for our work and actions. Please note the following behavior standards that we expect all of our students to live out as we continue to “strive to do my best and to glorify God the Father in all I do.”—whether at school or at home.
 1. **Students will prepare for their daily school responsibilities at home without complaint or requiring parents to provide all the reminders to be ready.**
 2. **Students will know their schedule and be ready to work with your teachers on time, with all your materials ready.**
 3. **Students will participate in all live video classes with their video on, respecting their fellow students by staying focused on the teacher's directions, asking questions when invited, and avoiding any interruption of teaching and learning.**
 4. **Students will ensure that they complete all assignments for all core and specials subjects.**
- The Diocese of Lansing has provided a helpful **School At Home Guide for Catholic Families** for parents as all our schools move to a distance learning format. Please see the attached guide for some helpful tips and reminders as we further grow our partnership with you in the education of your children.
- **Student Items Still at School** may be an issue... Please contact [Mrs. Steffy](#) and we will make arrangements for any materials needed right away for your pickup. As we move closer to the school year we will make arrangements for end of the year transition activities.

Suggestions for School at Home Distance Learning

- **Schedule Your Day:** A daily, repeated structure to the day provides students with the mental framework for committing themselves to their responsibilities. Predictability supports an attitude of readiness to follow through on scheduled activities.
- **Students in Dress Code:** Having students wear their dress code apparel for school-at-home sets up a school mindset that will help everyone focus.
- **Continuing Sending Your 'School at Home' Pictures:** We would love to share your pictures and descriptions of your experiences of distant learning at home with our school community! *At right: Melanie Karls focuses in on her online Google Classroom lesson.*



- **Distance Learning Feedback:** Please email me or your teachers any feedback, needs, concerns, and suggestions you could offer based on your experience as we begin the Boniface Term and go forward.



In this 2 minute exposition, Hillsdale College President, Dr. Larry Arnn, explains why the deceptively attractive epithet of 'child-centered' education is actually a disservice to a child's learning and development. In it you will recognize a key principle of our classical Catholic education at St. Thomas—the transcendental absolutes of Truth, Goodness and Beauty.

<https://youtu.be/WQ8lZA6y0jA>

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