

Holy Family School Distance Learning Plan 2020-21



“Everything has suddenly changed. What we previously took for granted seems to be uncertain: the way we relate with others at work, how we manage our emotions, study, recreation, prayer, even the possibility of attending Mass...”

-Pope Francis

*Strong in the Face of Tribulation:
A Sure Support in Time of Trial*

Holy Family School has a tradition of academic excellence since 1974 when a group of families founded our inspiring learning institution. This year we rise to the challenge of supporting the academic and spiritual development of our students in both the face-to-face and distance learning modalities. Please read our [Reopening Plan](#) for more information on the layers of virus spread prevention that we will implement in our face-to-face modality. In the document before you, we outline what the distance learning will look like.

Instructional Guidelines for All Learning for 2020-21

We know that this past Spring we all have experienced several crises: a global pandemic, civil unrest, and much economic uncertainty. This has revealed an even greater need to anchor ourselves in what we do know: that our God is a loving God and that Jesus teaches us the pathway to salvation. Teachers, staff, and students each day co-create a world at school that is structured, caring, goal-oriented, learning enriched, and filled with opportunities to share God’s love for us and one another.

This year we are creating year-long plans to facilitate more meaningful, interdisciplinary units that can be delivered face to face or remotely. Students that have symptoms of COVID-19 but are well enough to participate in Distance Learning, students that are quarantining as a preventative measure, and students whose families include a medically vulnerable family member will **meet online daily with their teacher**.

Our grading practices ensure that **grades reflect progress on learning goals**. We know that every student will come to school at different points in their academic and spiritual journey. Our expertise is firmly rooted in assessing students’ strengths and needs, designing lessons to help them get to the next level, and giving them feedback in the form of grades. Students are encouraged to demonstrate their understanding of the content in a variety of ways including writing, speaking, visual products, and modeling/building. Feedback is as close to real time as possible.

Each class may have different routines, however, all students working in the Distance Learning option will have a **scheduled time each day that teachers will provide video mini lessons for students**. Teachers will offer instructional experiences to include modeling, guided instruction, collaborative work, and independent work, Teachers may also offer social videos,

recapping the learning for the week, or saying a decade of the rosary together as a class to close the day. When appropriate, teachers will provide time for online students to work with peers in their classroom in a small group or whole class environment. Teachers will strategically use synchronous and asynchronous lessons. If a student is absent for Distance Learning, teachers will follow up that day with an email or telephone call.

All learning will be respectful of the students areas of growth and need. Students are not given “fluff” or busy work to fill time or provide an item to grade so every assignment is important for the development and growth of that student. Videos and apps used for Distance Learning are selected thoughtfully and are age-appropriate.

Each teacher will be in charge of their own classroom of 10-12 students face to face and any online students they may have. For Middle School students, we will be coordinating assignments, deadlines, projects and assessments among teachers to ensure a manageable workload.

All teachers will have an online classroom in Google Classroom that will be utilized in the classroom and will be expected to be accessed by online students. All assignments will be posted to that classroom. Online students will be provided with curricular materials and any other resources that they may need to complete their assignments.

The school is working to provide Chromebooks for every student to practice Distance Learning techniques and strategies at school. These Chromebooks will be available to check out for the semester in order to simplify and smooth the transition between face-to-face and Distance Learning at any given time.

FAQs

What platform do we use to offer live video instruction?

Google Meet and Zoom

How many hours a day should students spend learning?

The amount of learning time each day will depend on students’ ages. In general, we recommend the following amounts of learning time daily. Learning time includes total time for live instruction plus the time students spend on independent assignments.

PK: 30 - 45 minutes

K - 1: 45 - 70 minutes

2 - 3: 60 - 90 minutes

4 - 5: 90 - 135 minutes

6 - 8: 150 - 225 minutes

How often should students expect to receive 1:1 support from teachers?

All students will have the opportunity for a daily 1:1 check in with their homeroom teacher via phone or video. Teachers will coordinate the daily check in with student and parents.

How often can families expect to receive support from teachers?

Families will receive a weekly communication from the teacher with an overview of the assignments and schedule for the week and tips to support student learning that week.

Teachers may offer monthly or biweekly family zoom meetings to support parents as they consider how to best support learning from home.

How should I set up my child's Distance Learning space?

Feel free to get creative with your child's learning space! We do encourage you to find a consistent space that is NOT your child's bedroom. That is a private space that only you and your child should have access to. You should plan to join our school in prayer and flag salute every day at 8:15 in uniform.

Is there any other live instruction during the day?

Each teacher will be designing their schedule for the week to include live instruction once or twice a day. Middle school teachers will be coordinating their schedules to avoid overlapping classes.

My child has some of the symptoms, but doesn't seem that sick, can I send my child to school?

Please keep your child home if they have 2 or more symptoms from the checklist. They will be able to join our Distance Learning for that time period until they get well. If the teacher has advance notice they can include your child in the live lessons. Obviously if your child is too sick to even get out of bed, they are excused from Distance Learning that day.

When will assignments be assigned, and when will they be due?

In general, assignments will be shared at the beginning of the week and due by Thursday evening. Depending on the teacher, grade level, and your child's level of online access, assignments may be due daily. (Need to update after teachers review)

Where should students go to access assignments and instructional resources?

Students will be able to access Google Classroom and Alma to find assignments and resources. Some common resources we will be using across grade levels:

K-3	Guidedreading.com
K-5	Waggle (adaptive math curriculum)
pre-8	ixl.com (math, science, social studies) tentatively
K-8	ck12.org https://www.ck12.org/student/ (math, science, social studies, spelling)
Pre-8	The Catholic Toolbox

What opportunities for social interaction with peers should students expect?

In addition to daily class video instruction, we will provide students with more social video opportunities, such as class meetings / circles at least once a week.

I work all day and need to help my child with his classes during the evening. Will the teacher check-ins and daily videos be accessible after 4 p.m.?

If your child is too sick to access the classes during the day then they will be marked absent and can have time to make up the work.

If your child is too young to access the online class alone, you are working at home, and you all are in quarantine for a set period of time longer than 2 days, please communicate with your teacher on how best to meet attendance requirements. As long as we keep the open lines of communication and act with grace, we will all overcome any challenges during this unique time!