

Dear Parents,

Mrs. Woodman has a [video message](#) to share with you this evening. Please read on for additional information, as well.

Thank you for your cooperation with our homework pick-up day yesterday. We hope you will agree that everything went as smoothly as possible under the circumstances. Now that your children have what they need to take them through May 1 and possibly beyond, with the predicted peak in illness coming in the next few weeks, we hope everyone is able to stay home, be safe, and keep learning! As a reminder, your children will not need these materials until later this month, so please feel free to set them aside and "quarantine" them until you are ready. At this time, we all know that we will be closed through May 1. Our teachers have planned instruction through May 15, just in case, so we are confident we can handle anything that may come our way after May 1. We are working on planning for turning in student work, and are planning to do this as efficiently and safely as possible. We will communicate details as soon as we have them.

TIPS FOR HELPING YOUR CHILD LEARN AT HOME

As we prepare for at least an additional month of distance learning, we would like to share and reinforce a few points that may be helpful as we continue to work together in educating your children during this time.

1. If you are struggling in working with your child at home, please contact your child's teacher ASAP. Our staff has been very available to families, and some are even working with students at 8pm if that is when is best. If you need something, just ask. If you are not getting a response from a teacher, you can contact Mrs. Woodman or Mrs. Alexander, but please start with the teacher.
2. Some families have shared that setting a schedule is helpful, while others say the opposite. Whatever is set up must work for your family unit. We cannot mandate a schedule, especially when we have families with both parents working. We have had teachers set up schedules with families to help hold the child(ren) accountable. Again, we are willing to do whatever it takes to help facilitate learning at home. Our teachers are working harder than ever to make sure students feel connected, loved, safe, and accountable for their learning.
3. Any support you can provide each other during this time is critical. We have one of the most loving school/parish communities in the whole state...country...world! We need to support one another, lift each other up, and stay positive. Help spread the word about the great things our school is doing. If you are struggling, let us know, and remember that no question/concern is silly. We are here for you! Teachers are not going to be perfect in this situation - we are figuring out this new way of teaching and

learning too. But, using a kind approach to voice your questions/concerns is always helpful and appreciated.

We truly want to work together with you, so please keep in touch with us!

RESOURCES FOR FAMILIES

We continue to update our COVID-19 page with resources to assist you as we find them. Today, the Ohio Department of Education released a Remote Learning Resource Guide, which we have added to our page. We have also added a COVID-19 Time Capsule project to the page, to encourage our students to memorialize their experiences during this historic time. [Click here to access our COVID-19 page.](#)

ZOOM SAFETY

There have been reports of Zoom meetings being hacked by strangers. Guidance we have been given by the Diocese of Cleveland says that the benefits of using Zoom for distance learning outweigh the potential safety concerns at this time. Zoom has addressed these concerns and has made their platform even safer in the past several days. However, we need to follow the guidelines listed below to make sure we are using Zoom in the safest way possible:

- Neither teachers nor students should be using Facebook or any social media to log into Zoom.
- Teachers will invite students to Zoom meetings only via secure student or parent emails through Gradelink. Reminders will come the same way. Nothing about Zoom meetings should be posted on a public forum.
- Teachers have set up Zoom so that students cannot privately chat to one another. This is for everyone's safety.
- Zoom does not allow others in the meeting until the host arrives. Students will not be able to join until the teacher starts the meeting, and teachers may also lock a meeting so no one can enter after you lock the meeting. Teachers will also be sure to end the meeting when finished, so that everyone else must leave the meeting. Again, this is for everyone's safety. Teachers have been instructed to end the meeting immediately if an unknown person enters the meeting.
- Students should not be creating personal Zoom accounts or attempting to use their school-issued devices to communicate with others. Doing so could open them up to predators. Some of you have asked about ways to keep students connected with one another, especially when they do not have their own phones. Some easy ideas could include allowing your child to use your phone to Facetime with a friend, allowing your child to Skype with a friend on your phone or other device, using your personal gmail account to allow your child to talk with a friend via Google Meet, or using Facebook's Messenger Kids service to allow your child to connect with a friend on a kid-friendly and safe platform. You should always be in the room while any of these activities take

place, and please remember that by law, children under 13 cannot be online without adult supervision.

- Students should not use their cloud storage to store recorded videos. Instead, they should download the file locally. Teachers will notify student / parent emails through Gradelink ahead of time if a presentation will be recorded. Teachers should also request a written acknowledgement from parents that they are aware that their children's voices/pictures may be recorded.
- Even during 1-on-1 conversations between an individual teacher and parent or student, it is not a good idea to discuss any truly sensitive information using the platform.

Thank you for helping us to keep your children safe by following these guidelines.

HOLY WEEK AND SPRING BREAK

St. Hilary Parish has many observances planned for Holy Week next week. These will be live streamed at facebook.com/sthilaryparish. Please click the link at the end of this email for an attachment detailing these observances. Please note also that live Masses at St. Hilary Parish are cancelled through May 4. You can see live streamed Masses every day at 9 am at facebook.com/sthilaryparish.

In addition, we would like to observe Holy Week with the students in a special way. We are issuing a Kindness Challenge to all students for next week. On Monday, we challenge all students to do something kind for a sibling, parent or grandparent. On Tuesday, we challenge all students to do something kind for a neighbor or stranger. Examples might include making a picture or writing a letter to an elderly or shut-in neighbor or someone in a nursing home. On Wednesday, we challenge all students to do something kind for God's creation. Examples might include caring for pets or other animals, or doing something to care for or beautify the earth. Please send us your photos and we will post them on our school Facebook page!

We will conclude Holy Week with our live streamed prayer service on Thursday at 9:00 a.m. You can view the prayer service at facebook.com/sthilaryparish or facebook.com/StHilarySchoolFairlawnOhio/. The service will focus on coming together as a family.

Please remember that only Monday – Wednesday next week will be instructional days. Please join us for the prayer service on Thursday, and enjoy spring break through April 17. We will resume our distance learning on April 20.

SABER SERVICE

We also want to update you on some ways our school community is continuing our tradition of serving the larger community during this time. After two offerings of our Saber Pantry did not draw any St. Hilary families, we have decided to share our

blessings and open up our pantry to serve not only our own families but families from some other area Catholic schools, as well. Many of you have expressed interest in donating to our Saber Pantry. If you would still like to help, you may drop off items next Monday, April 6 from 7:00 to 8:00 p.m. at the Moorfield Road doors. Fr. Matt will meet you to safely accept your donations while following the appropriate health and safety guidelines. We will have additional details about the Saber Pantry in the weeks ahead.

In addition, with our days in the school building reduced, we had an overabundance of disinfecting wipes, hand sanitizer, and even some masks, gloves and goggles. Children's Hospital put out a request for these and other items, and we thought donating our extra supplies there would be a great way to give back to the hospital so many of our families rely on for the health of their children. Also, you may have seen that all of the hospitals in our region are collaborating during this time, and leaders from Children's Hospital are at the helm of that collaborative group. We are proud to support their efforts. We did reserve some of these items in cautious optimism that we might still return to school in May, but felt it was appropriate to share with our community at this time of urgent need.

PLANNING FOR THE FUTURE

We would like to address some of the questions we have been receiving about events scheduled later this spring. We are watching Governor DeWine's press conferences and checking many news sources daily, and there are still many unknowns about how long the current situation will last. Just yesterday during Governor DeWine's press conference, it was stated that we can expect new cases of coronavirus to continue into June, even after the peak of illness. We also know that, realistically, we will not be able to immediately resume normal life even once the number of new cases declines, and that there will be a gradual lifting of the restrictions we are all under now. We are extremely sensitive to the milestones and traditions that are celebrated each spring and as the school year ends. However, until we have more information about what lies ahead even into the summer months, it is impractical for us to speculate on what events may be able to take place, what events may be rescheduled, and when. We appreciate your understanding as we continue to adapt to this unprecedented situation daily, just as all of you are.

As we continue to work through the days immediately ahead, we are also in the thick of planning for next year. We want you to know that there is a very real possibility that our school calendar may need to be adjusted depending on what instructions we are given by Governor DeWine. At this point, we have not received any information regarding the start of our school year, but we are preparing for the possibility that it could be impacted depending on the duration of phasing out of the current situation. We are making tentative plans to adjust some of our events if needed. One important event we have scheduled for next fall is our Grandparents' Day on October 2. To be as safe as possible as we invite a large number of grandparents into our building, we have set a tentative back-up date of April 1, 2021 for this event. As we know more, we will let you

know if the event will be moved to April. Also, as many of you know, the 2020-2021 school year is our 60th anniversary year. However, in light of the current situation, planning for any 60th anniversary events is on hold at the moment.

Our incoming kindergarten families will soon be receiving information to continue the process of their enrollment. On that note, we need to share with you that our two legendary kindergarten teachers, Mrs. Piekarski and Mrs. Thomson, will be retiring at the end of this school year. These ladies have each given more than three decades of dedicated service to our school, and we are grateful to them for building much of our wonderful kindergarten program. Mrs. Ashley Haskins has been hired to join our kindergarten teaching team. A product of Catholic education from kindergarten through college, Mrs. Haskins is certified in elementary education (PreK-3) with a reading endorsement. She also has a master's degree in library science. Currently finishing her 17th year of teaching, Mrs. Haskins comes to us from St. Matthew School where she has spent the past 15 years. Eight of her years of teaching have been in kindergarten, and she is well-versed in the curriculum used in our St. Hilary kindergarten program. Mrs. Haskins will be assisted by Mrs. Parri and Mrs. Pelini.

Also retiring at the end of this school year will be fifth grade teacher Mrs. Moloney. Mrs. Moloney is also a long-time member of the St. Hilary staff, having worked as a teaching assistant, first grade teacher, and fifth grade teacher. Mrs. Laura Murphey has been hired to join our fifth grade teaching team. Mrs. Murphey is certified to teach grades 4-9, with a bachelor's degree in science and a master's degree in education. She has been an educational assistant at St. Hilary this school year, and has also assisted us as a trusted substitute teacher for two years. Prior to her work at St. Hilary, Mrs. Murphey taught sixth graders in the Kent City Schools for five years, and taught for one year at the Cleveland Clinic Center for Autism School.

We hope you will join us in welcoming Mrs. Haskins and Mrs. Murphey to our faculty. We will miss all three of our departing teachers and wish them well as they move on to the next chapters in their lives. We hope to recognize them in a special way as soon as we are able to safely do so. We are finalizing details on all of our staffing needs for 2020-2021, and will have additional updates for you in the coming weeks.

Finally, we would like to leave you with a [video](#) we hope will bring a smile to your face, courtesy of Mrs. Alexander's second grade class.

You are in our prayers. Thank you for your support, efforts, and kindness as we transition further into our "new normal." We can do this!