

April 17, 2020

Dear OLW Families:

As you have most likely heard, it was announced today that Governor Pritzker has ordered all Illinois schools to remain closed for the remainder of the academic school year. While this is an announcement I have been anticipating, the reality of it is still difficult to accept and comprehend. I am sure that you are full of questions. I will continue to provide new information in future weekly updates and hope to answer as many of those questions as possible in the coming weeks.

While this is sad news for all of us, my heart especially goes out to our 8th graders. Every year we talk to the 8th graders about how special and meaningful their 8th grade year is meant to be. While it may look different this year, it is still my desire to celebrate all of them in whatever way we are able.

### **E-Learning/Remote Learning - What's NEW for the week of April 20th.**

The faculty and staff remain committed to continuing to offer the best education possible under the current circumstances. We are so grateful for the role that parents have played in this partnership and for all of the positive and constructive feedback we have received thus far. We are aware that each of you has been impacted in your own way and your capacity to support your children during this time varies. To help with this we will be introducing a new system for classifying work assigned to students. We are calling it the 3 E's: Expected, Encouraged, and Enrichment.

**Expected:** Teachers have been asked to prioritize their lessons and to deliver them following maximum guidelines for minutes set by the Illinois State Boards of Education.

Preschool - no more than 60 minutes per day

K-2 - no more than 90 minutes per day

3-5 - no more than 120 minutes per day

6-8 - no more than 180 minutes per day

Please keep in mind that these minutes are guidelines and do not account for the additional religion instruction we are providing, therefore we will exceed the recommended minutes by 20-30 minutes each day.

It is our hope that this work is completed in a timely fashion. We are also sensitive to the fact that some families may be experiencing circumstances that make completing this expected work difficult. In those cases it is important that to maintain open communication with the teacher.

A few things to consider when looking at minute guidelines:

- Not every student works at the same pace, so some students may complete work in less time than guidelines suggest, while others may take additional time. If you feel your

child is significantly exceeding the number of minutes suggested on a regular basis, please reach out to your child's teachers.

- While teachers will do their best to adhere to these guidelines, there will occasionally be days where there is slightly more or less work assigned than what the guidelines dictate.

**Encouraged:** This is work that teachers feel is important but that not every family may have the time to complete. We are leaving it up to each family to make the decision that is best for them in regards to how much of the encouraged work is completed.

**Enrichment:** Teachers will identify activities or lessons for those families that are looking for additional work and challenge for their children. There is no expectation that this work is completed. It is solely a resource provided for those wishing to take advantage of it.

In communications next week, teachers will work to identify assignments into categories using the three E's. This will look a little different in each grade level.

Preschool - All work will be broken into two categories: Encouraged and Enrichment.

K-4 - Teachers will deliver four subjects (including religion) of expected material. This will include the Zoom meetings. Based on teacher feedback regarding student stamina with timing and frequency, we have made some adjustments to the current schedule. Please see the adjusted schedule below.

5-8 - As these students are more independent and have access to their own devices, the majority of work assigned to these students will continue to be expected. Teachers will provide some additional enrichment as well. The middle school class schedule has not changed.

Students in 5th-8th are receiving all of their work from specials via Google Classroom. It is important that they join these classes to receive these assignments. Time is allotted in the middle school schedule for this work to be completed.

#### SCHEDULE FOR WEEK OF APRIL 20<sup>th</sup>

Monday, April 20<sup>th</sup> - Remote Learning Day

Tuesday, April 21<sup>st</sup> - Remote Learning Day

Wednesday, April 22<sup>nd</sup> - Remote Learning Day

Thursday, April 23<sup>rd</sup> - Remote Learning Day

Friday, April 24<sup>th</sup> - Service Learning Day/Remote Planning Day for Staff - no ZOOM meetings or new learning material will be distributed

Thank you again for all of your patience and support as we continue to learn and grow through this process.

Sincerely,  
Mr. David Wood