

March 21, 2020

Dear Parents and Guardians,

It has only been a week since we were all together with the children, but it feels much longer. We really miss them! I hope that you and your family are staying safe and healthy.

A Big **THANK YOU** goes to:

- *Each of you* for responding so quickly to our request to pick up your child's books and materials. It was amazing how well the process went. The staff took every precaution by wearing gloves and giving each one who came a squirt of hand sanitizer. All of you respected the 'Grab-n-Go' process, and now every child has the materials they need to work on their daily lessons.
- *Our incredible faculty and staff* for their hard work in preparing for the children's on-going education. Only learning last Saturday afternoon that all schools would close immediately, definitely put us in overdrive, but everyone came together and supported one another.
- *Our maintenance staff, Vinko and Michel*, who greatly ramped up their daily cleaning and disinfecting routines to keep us all safe over the last month or more, and Mike who has been supporting our IT needs through this entire week.

### **Daily and Learning:**

Go to the **Nazareth Elementary Website**. Then **Teacher Sections** and you will see the **Teacher Web Pages**. From there, you can head to the **Google Classrooms**. Email or DoJo the teacher if you are having trouble.

- Every teacher, including the Academic Intervention teachers and the Specials teachers, has their **Teacher Web pages** and **Google Classrooms** up and running. You will find daily lessons posted so your child's education continues, but in new ways. Several children have responded with comments and assignments already from the first two days of lessons! Some are even sending videos back to their teachers to show their work! Impressive! Sr. Anita will be monitoring students on their recorders and guitars, so practice is important!
- Our instrumental teacher, Ms. Brown, has prepared for virtual lessons in viola, violin, cello and all other instrumental lessons. Check out her schedule so your child is ready for his/her **Wednesday** lessons.
- We recognize that not every child has access to the same technology. For those without Internet, Spectrum is offering it free while schools are closed. If a computer is not available, lessons can be brought up on phones or tablets. *Please DoJo or email a teacher if your child is not able to complete some assignments due to technology constraints.*

## Helpful Tips:

1. *Establish a daily routine* on weekdays just as you do when school is in session – earlier bedtime, wake up time, breakfast...the children should dress for school (not the uniform, but not pajamas either!) We want the children to take their schoolwork seriously. Set times for schoolwork.
2. *Monitor* the children and their *schoolwork*, help where needed, work on projects or hands-on lessons together, but don't do it all for them. Open book is a good way to learn, so it is ok for students to use textbooks as tools. A teacher will let the students know when not to use open book.
3. *Monitor* the amount of fun on *electronics*, and as always, have safeguards in place for checking the sites your children are entering.
4. *Pray* together each day. The children are used to morning prayer as a school over the PA. They can lead daily prayer. Have them write prayers or just pray from their hearts. We were down to Kdg this month leading prayers and the pledge for all. In the spring, the preschoolers will have a chance, too! Pray before meals. The children know those prayers as well.
5. Take *brain break* and daily do some simple physical activities together at home.
6. *Read* every day. Make it a DEAR (Drop Everything and Read) time for parents and others at home.
7. *Be patient* as the virtual lessons unfold...this is a new way of instruction and learning for all.
8. *Stay calm*...we only have today. No one knows what tomorrow will bring. Meditate, practice yoga, listen to music, watch uplifting movies, count your blessings, and more...
9. Call a relative or friend if you just need someone to talk with besides little ones. Taking care of yourself will help you take good care of your children.

We are part of history in the making with the whole world. Life is different and worrisome and stressful, yet this crisis is already bringing out the best in people as we reach out and help others in new ways. Graces and blessings surround us all!

March 22 is a *Day of Worldwide Solidarity and Prayer*. Let us join together as we pray for all those impacted by this coronavirus in any way, those ill and those who have lost loved ones, those in the medical fields, those doing research, those who remain key service providers, those out of work. We pray for all children that they will be safe and happy, and can just be children.

We as a staff remain with you in spirit and committed to doing all we can to assist from afar. Let us know...

Peace to all!  
*Sr. Margaret*

*Isaiah 43:1 - "But now, this is what the Lords says – God who created you Jacob, who formed you, Israel: 'Do not fear, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name and you are mine.'"*