



March 16, 2020

Parents,

It seems to be a whirlwind lately with trying out a new drop off/pick up procedure, grades closing and report cards this week and COVID-19 updates changing hourly/daily. I want to thank you for your understanding and flexibility as we navigate through these uncharted waters. I truly believe the good Lord watches over our school community and I know and pray that will continue.

Our faculty and staff has been working for about a month on the possibility that we might be going to remote learning. During this time, teachers have looked at the curriculum, gathered resources, and learned about different online formats such as Zoom. They have worked together sharing ideas and by themselves putting their ideas into packets. Our goal is always to do the very best that we can and I am so proud of the way this staff came together ready to learn, ready to share and ready to work. I really want to commend them!

We have decided to use Zoom as our classroom format while we are not in school. Zoom works best using Chrome. This allows students to log in and have direct instruction with their teachers. The students are able to work together as a class and also in small groups (breakout rooms). They will zoom with their teacher. The zoom part of the lesson will be working with the teacher but then the teacher may ask students to do some independent work after the lesson. This will vary from grade to grade as we will be offering grade level appropriate instruction. Upper level classes already use Google classroom for passing in assignments and checking for homework and that will continue. In addition, teachers have created packets to go home to have some books, journals, math sheets and anything needed for students to work at home. In your packet today is a schedule for zoom classes. It is best if you can make it at the scheduled time but we understand that you also are juggling a lot. If you cannot make the time listed, teachers will record the lesson so you can view it later. We tried to think of everything but we probably haven't since this is something new to us all.

Parents and students will not be allowed in the building after today. If there is something you need, we will be happy to get it for you. I am hoping that you will be creating memories with your family. Imagine the story that they will have to tell their children about the time the schools all closed and they had to learn at home! If you need any help with IT issues, let me know. I will help in that capacity or anything else you need. I will be checking the phone and email daily. Again, I want to thank you for your kind words and encouragement as we have navigated through this ever changing scenario. Let us all take a moment to pray and reflect on what is most important in our lives and let us be kind to one another as we move along this uncertain path together and learning takes place in a virtual school.

Peace, Nancy Naimey