



Update from the Middle School Division Head

March 17, 2020

Greetings Middle School Families,

I wish you well on this beautiful Spring day as do all our MS teachers! Over the last two days, we have spent much time together online in the initial stages of our planning for the care and learning of our MS students. As Barry wrote to you in his letter yesterday, while we are following the health and safety guidelines set by the CDC and the state of Delaware, we are also following the best educational and pedagogical guidelines to ensure that your child's learning continues to progress. We are tirelessly working on distance learning plans that include helping your child grow intellectually, artistically, socially spiritually, and physically. To do this remotely, teachers are not only leveraging their prior knowledge and experience with Google Classroom, YouTube, Google Docs, etc. but also adding to their teaching toolbelts by exploring and testing new digital platforms like Google Meet, Flipgrid, Edpuzzle, Nearpod, and others. We are excited about how we can make the most of the change in our learning environment.

While we continue to build a coordinated academic plan for our middle school students, we encourage your student to explore topics that pique his/her interest. YouTube, Khan Academy, Allrecipes, and Discovery Education are virtual treasure chests of lessons. Want to learn magic tricks? YouTube. Interested in coding? Khan Academy. Thinking about learning how to make Baklava? Allrecipes.com. Want to take a virtual field trip to see polar bears on the tundra? DiscoveryEducation.com. All or any of these lessons present many, many opportunities for fun and learning.

Important Actions Needed:

- In order for us to best serve your child(ren)'s learning, it is essential that we hear from you. So if you have not had a chance to tell us about your Internet speed, home electronic devices, supplies, etc. please do [complete the Distance Learning Survey](#). Thanks to all who have already completed the [survey](#).
- While school lessons will not formally begin for another week or so, you can help coach and prepare your middle schooler by encouraging him/her to build healthy habits:
- Start the day with a healthy breakfast

- Check school email and subject-specific Google Classrooms by 10:00 am each day
- Reply to school emails within 24 hours
- Wash hands several times a day
- Get enough exercise
- Get enough sleep
- Connect with friends and family
- Be a productive member of your family by doing chores
- Limit screen time (especially when lessons begin and schoolwork will equate to more screen time)

Looking for help? If you are looking for resources to help guide you and your family's journey through this pandemic, St. Anne's Episcopal School highly respects and trusts the information and guidance provided by the [Common Sense Media](#) website. This independent, non-profit organization provides well-researched information for our fast-changing world. I encourage you to use their [COVID-19 resources](#) with your children and your family as you navigate this difficult time. You will find advice on how to understand the news coverage and to stay calm for yourselves and your children, as well as other resources to use with your children. And do not forget that you have access to our SAES Tech Resources Google Site that is chock full of resources. I recommend that you start in [Online Learning](#).

A reminder: Because of our present situation with COVID-19, all of our school events scheduled in the next two weeks (through March 30th) have been put on hold, including our Spring conferences. As we have a better understanding of the circumstances, we will communicate plans. Our [School website](#) will continue to be updated and is a great place for news. Questions can be directed to COVID19@stannesde.org, me jreilly@stannesde.org, or your child's advisor.

Our purpose has not changed even if our learning environment has. We are here to support your child(ren)'s learning and growth as well as support their biggest fan- you! Please do not hesitate to reach out to us during this time of flux and uncertainty with questions, concerns, suggestions.

In partnership,

Jill

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