



ST PATRICK CATHOLIC SCHOOL

701 S Church Street, Wentzville, MO 63385

Phone: 636-332-9913

Tuesday, April 28, 2020

Hello, St. Patrick School Family,

I hope you are healthy and in good spirits! I'd like to take this time to share the plans for the end of the school year.

DATES:

I apologize for any confusion regarding the ending dates. The teachers will teach through Thursday, May 7th. Then Friday, Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday, (May 8, 11, 12, & 13) will be used for catching up and turning in missing work. There will be no extensions after Wednesday, May 13th. The teachers will be reaching out to students about missing work via email or phone calls.

GRADES:

Next, regarding grading for the 4th quarter. Please understand this is a new situation for all of us. I think it's important that we have an understanding of what needs to be taken into consideration when preparing grades. We have to appreciate that the consistency, structure, and environment of each family is very different. Some families are all home together every day; while others have parent(s) going to work, maybe shorter, maybe longer hours, or even different hours. Some students are getting help from siblings or grandparents, while others may not be able to get much help at all. Some have high speed internet, while others do not. Devices are another factor. While some have checked out Chrome books, others are using parents' work computers, iPad, phones or maybe even different devices on different days. I'm taking the time to mention these things because your children's teachers and I have had this conversation numerous times and I feel it's important that you know they are taking these things into consideration.

We need to be mindful of the inability to be in a structured classroom with a teacher and maybe even aides who help keep students on task, redirect, and answer questions immediately. Some children may have truly struggled without this, while others are finding it a preference! We have so many different kinds of learners.

What I am trying to say is there is just so much that needs to be taken into consideration and your children's teachers completely understand.

During this time, the teachers still had expectations of their students to show effort. Effort included doing the work, trying their best, following directions, asking questions, attending Zoom meetings, and redoing work when the teachers suggested. We are fortunate this happened in the fourth quarter, simply because our teachers had time to get to know their students and had an idea of the quality of work they are capable of producing. Again, being at home and in a different environment may change the study habits, but overall, the teachers know their students. 😊

With all of this being said, grades will be based on the student's earned average AND the level of effort the teachers have seen throughout these past seven weeks. How the students did in the first three quarters may also be taken into consideration. We do not want to penalize our students for something that they had no control over; moreover, we want to be fair and give a grade that reflects all of these factors.

A calculation for the final grade is still in the works. I have been meeting with other regional principals and our teachers on this. I will let you know the final decision soon.

DROP-OFF/PICK-UP:

Drop-off/Pick-up procedures have been made for returning and receiving materials from school. A Sign-Up Genius link is below. You will have the opportunity to choose a 10-minute window of time on one of three days, Wednesday, May 13, Thursday, May 14 or Friday, May 15. Parents only, (no students, please), will enter the building through the south doors (where you pick up students after clubs.) If you have a Chrome book checked out, your first stop will be the computer lab to sign it back in with Mr. Kalist. Next, you will take the rest of the school items to the gym, where classes will be designated throughout. Textbooks, library books, papers, etc. can be returned there, and your children's items will be bagged and marked with his/her name for pick up. After the exchange, please exit through the gym doors. Everything will be in the gym, so there will not be a need to go into classrooms. We will have teachers and aides there to assist. PLEASE PUT ITEMS BEING RETURNED IN A PAPER BAG WITH YOUR CHILD'S NAME, GRADE AND TEACHER ON IT IN BIG LETTERS. I will send out a reminder next week with the details noted.

CLOSURE:

How about something fun! There is no way to duplicate the fun we usually have during our last week of school! The teachers hold celebrations, extra recesses and much more! The students formed a big tunnel on the last day for our 8th grade and we gave them a big send off! The teachers are heartbroken and miss your children very much! This year is going to be different, but that doesn't mean we can't do something fun to close out our year!

We are hoping you will agree to a parade! There have been many parades for birthdays and special occasions, so why can't we do one? Families who are comfortable with this would meet in the community center/flea market parking lot behind the church. You would need to stay in your car and form a line to parade through the church and school parking lot while the teachers - correctly spaced - held signs, blew bubbles, and waved wishes for a fun summer! We thought it would be good fun if the 8th grade were very last so we could maybe do something a little extra for them! (Shhh!) I have spoken to their parents already! It won't be the same as our

traditional last day, but it will give all of us a chance to see each other and share some smiles!
The date for this parade is Friday, May 15 with the parade beginning at 5:30p.m.
I realize this has been a lot of information, and I thank you for taking the time to read through it. Our St. Patrick School family has been amazing through all of this and we will finish strong!
Showing my appreciation to everyone has not been easy, but please know I have prayed for all of you and have asked God to protect you and help you during this time of so much uncertainty. God bless you and your family!

Yours in Christ,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Mrs. Jill Gould".

Mrs. Jill Gould
Principal

Sign-Up Genius Link:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/805084BAEAD2EA2FD0-drop>