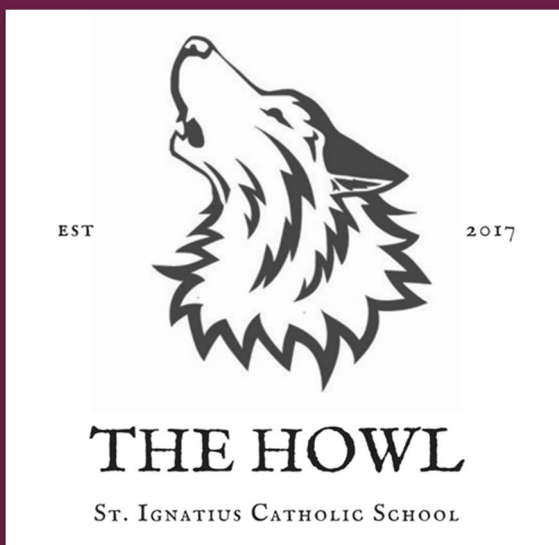


SPRING, 2020



Growing leaders who turn
FAITH into ACTION.

JOIN US FOR THE FOLLOWING:

We know it is difficult for our community to miss the many different events that we had planned for this spring. While we have to be apart, we invite you to join us for our continuing virtual events!

Check our Facebook page for links to weekly events like our Monday Gray Wolf Assembly and our Thursday St. Ignatius Mass. Our Facebook page also includes fun virtual events like Spirit Week and weekly Family Challenges as well.

Let's keep our community together even while we are apart!

PRINCIPAL'S CORNER

Dear St. Ignatius School Community,

Earlier this week, I stood in the empty Commons of St. Ignatius Catholic School and I felt...well...empty. There in those walls, where I so often hear and see the presence of God in our people, there was just a vast quiet, as if crying for something to fill it's hollow, open space.

Ignatian Spirituality refers to the concept of "detachment". Detachment means that we hold a bit of distance from all things, so that we are more open to freely choose the things that direct us towards God. St. Ignatius once said that if the Jesuit order (that he founded) ever disbanded, he would need only 15 minutes of prayer to gather himself and move on.

While St. Ignatius, *the saint*, would only need 15 minutes, St. Ignatius, *the school*, took about two days (not too bad when comparing to a saint!). In a speedy adjustment, we *detached* from the world of classroom learning and moved into the universe of remote education. The shift required a strong "We've got this!" attitude from staff and families which was felt strongly from the very beginning, and a faith in God who lifts us up through it all.

Resilience, grit, and determination are terms we use frequently in education. Educators around the world know that these characteristics make for strong learners and successful humans. Yet the ways in which students acquire these skills are often from struggle, which is nearly impossible to fabricate, and not something we ever desire for our children.

While we all wish our students were safely in our building, amiss from the stress of our current times, we do recognize that they have the chance to gain these important skills that will benefit them for life. Our priority is to offer support to our families, while maintaining a learning routine as much as possible. With the guidance of parents and teachers, we are bonding together to ensure our kids arise from this pandemic stronger and closer to God.

Standing in the empty space at St. Ignatius Catholic School makes it apparent to me that St. Ignatius Catholic School is NOT a place...it is a community. Our family is joined by the Spirit of Christ that unites us together. May we return again to each other with more love, more resilience, and an even stronger bond.

Blessings,

Andi Kane, Principal, St. Ignatius Catholic School

Academic Excellence • Faith Formation • Social Justice • Service • Strength of Community

ADJUSTING IN UNPRECEDENTED TIMES!



WOW! This has been an unprecedented and unsettling time for our community, our nation, and our world. As we all grapple to cope with the devastation caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, St. Ignatius has been working hard to provide a new normal for our students-- finding ways keep them engaged in both learning and our community even when we cannot be with them in person.


As you likely know, we began our school closure on March 16, 2020 along with other area schools. While we had no idea how long this closure would last, our school made a commitment to creating a remote learning program that would honor the integrity and mission of our school to carry us through any required social distancing period. It was agreed that *St. Ignatius would strive to be an area of support, structure, consistency, and connection for our students and families during this stressful time, while maintaining continued academic growth.*

Immediately, our entire staff community worked together to bring that vision to life. Our incredible staff collaborated to create systems and structures that provide the greatest amount of support, learning and engagement to students while physically separated. Within days of closing, families were sent home with printed materials for daily on-line lessons, received instructions regarding remote learning platforms, and checked out technology for on-line engagement. We are blessed to have enough technology that we could provide a device to every student who requested one.

Three days after closing, our remote learning platform was up and running and our teachers were providing all of our students (even our Pre-K (3-4 year old) students) with a robust educational experience. We are grateful to have staff with the skill set and open mindedness to be able to so quickly have shifted to a remote learning format and to have the resources to have allowed our students to begin learning during week 1 of our closure. We have found ways to support spiritual growth, keep students engaged in our community, and maintain our academic growth expectations. We are continuing to administer a formal curriculum, online instruction, and student progress monitoring. Despite the obstacles of social distancing, our staff has remained resolute in our commitment to provide the best remote learning experience possible for our students and families.

While nothing can replace being in the building with our students, St. Ignatius Catholic School has quickly adjusted to becoming an entirely remote, Pre-K through 8th grade learning community. We are so proud of the way our student, staff, and parent community have responded to this crisis and shown resilience, perseverance, and growth during this unprecedented period. It has truly been a team effort as we have found ways to come together even while we are apart!

REMOTE LEARNING PROGRAM




St. Ignace Catholic School
Remote Learning Plan
Week ONE: March 16-20, 2020

First Grade

SAMPLE PLAN

Weekly Homework Check in time: _____



☐ Weekly Assembly live Monday at 8:40am!

Daily Checklist					
M	T	W	Th	F	
					Pray
					Get out and exercise!
					Eat three healthy meals
					Reach your MAGIS
					Attended remote school (blue indicates attendance)
At the end of the week, submit this learning plan to your homeroom teacher!					

Reading/ELA					
M	T	W	Th	F	
					Complete at least 20 minutes of Headpout
					Read at least 20 minutes from <u>at level</u> book!
Seesaw Reading Pack					
					Watch daily video lesson
					Complete daily ELA assignment

Math					
M	T	W	Th	F	
					Drops in the Bucket OR math fluency pra
					# of puzzles completed
					Complete at least 20 minutes of ST Math
Seesaw Math Pack					
					Watch video lesson
					Complete daily math assignment

Science this week
Complete Mystery Science LINK HERE

Religion this week
Pp. 24-25 in Religion book:

Social Studies this week

While our parents, staff, and students are now very familiar with our remote learning program, many of you may wonder what a remote learning program looks like at St. Ignatius Catholic School. During this closure, St. Ignatius is committed to creating the best remote learning experience possible for our students and families while maintaining a sense of community and support.

Our plan includes:

- Weekly Remote Learning Plan outlining each student's daily tasks and weekly tasks (PreK-5).
- Live weekly virtual face-to-face check-ins with teachers and support staff
- Live virtual weekly class gatherings
- Daily video lessons in each subject area
- Daily hands-on assignments
- Daily assignments using on-line learning software
- Continuing academic assessments
- Weekly school-wide virtual assembly
- Weekly school-wide live streaming Mass

We have created and distributed a Remote Learning Manual for our students and parents that more specifically explains the details of our Remote Learning Program. We encourage you to take a moment to browse through the Remote Learning tab of our website for more details about our expectations and plans during this period of social distancing.

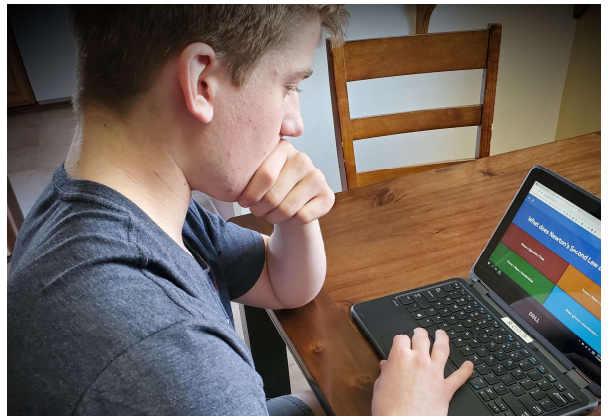


*Below are some great examples of things
our teachers and students are doing to
stay connected:*

- Our 3rd grade students are still enjoying awesome science lessons, even from afar! They learned about measuring liquids and solids and created catapults and then shared their learning/completion of assignments in videos that were sent to their teacher/class.



- Science is still going strong in 2nd grade! Students are learning about animal biodiversity and engineering by designing and creating bird feeders that will attract specific types of birds. They shared their findings and pictures of their bird houses on line.



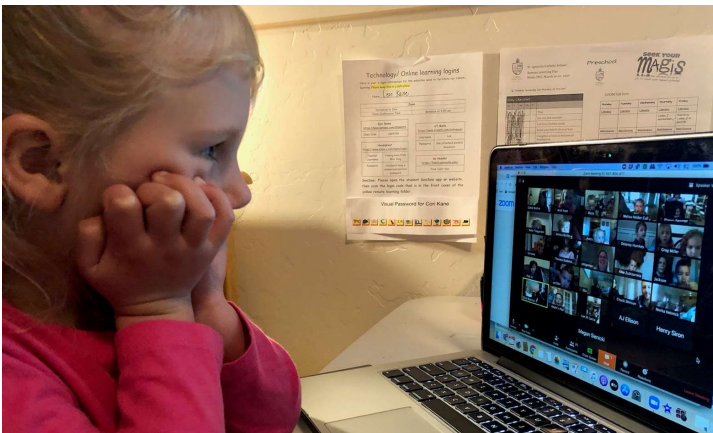
- Middle school math students are sharing what they are learning in math by making Flipgrid videos that show them solving problems. What a great opportunity for our students to explore these new and creative learning platforms.
- 8th graders are continuing their science learning through their live on-line Gimkit team competitions. Teachers are finding ways for our students to stay connected to one another in a fun way during this stressful time.

IT'S BEEN A TEAM EFFORT.....

REMOTE LEARNING FEEDBACK

While nothing can replace being in the building with our students, St. Ignatius is committed to creating the best remote learning program possible under the circumstances. Because this is uncharted territory for our entire community, it has been imperative that we seek out feedback from our students, parents, and staff throughout this period through surveys sent every 2 weeks.

Based on feedback received from our students and parents and in an attempt to accommodate the needs of as many families as possible, we have been able to make informed adjustments to our program as we go. Every family situation is different. We understand that we will not be able to offer a package to families that is best for everyone. Our ultimate goal is to provide some consistency, support and opportunities for learning during this time to as many students and families as possible.



- 89.9% of parents agree or strongly agree that the face-to-face checks in with students are valuable and meaningful (we received similarly positive feedback from PK-8 students about the importance of these meetings)
- Many families appreciate that social studies, science, and specials for K-5 are being offered but are not required. This structure is allowing students and families some much needed flexibility to meet the individual needs of their students and families.
- Our students greatly miss being in the building with their friends and teachers.

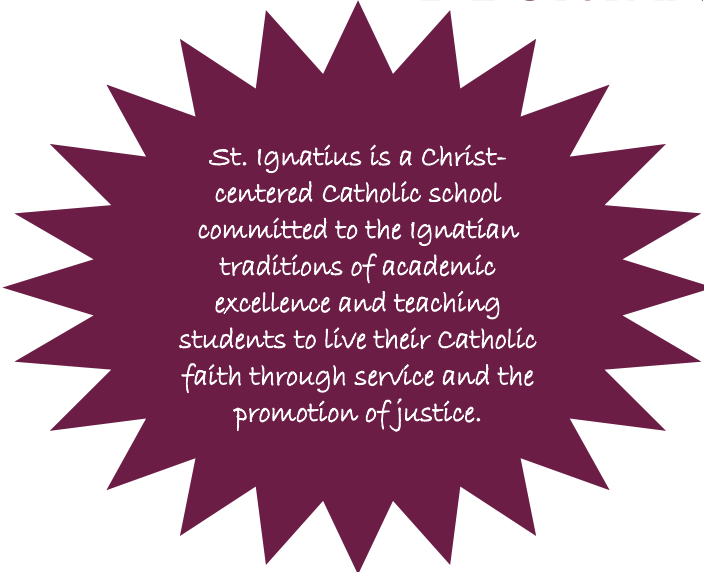


Feedback from our surveys has remained fairly consistent from week to week and indicates that our current system is working for most of our students and families. Feedback indicates that:

- 90.7% of parents agree or strongly agree that the level of support given by the school is meeting my expectations (we received similarly positive feedback from PK-8 students about the level of support being offered by the school to students)
- 98.6% of our PK-3 students feel good about the expectations their teachers have of them during this time.
- 86.4% of parents agree or strongly agree that assignments being given are valuable for academic growth and learning and 90.7% of PK-3 students feel like they are still learning a lot.



IMPORTANT UPDATES



St. Ignatius is a Christ-centered Catholic school committed to the Ignatian traditions of academic excellence and teaching students to live their Catholic faith through service and the promotion of justice.

WCEA Accreditation Update

Just before our school closure, our staff was preparing to complete the final steps of the school's accreditation process.

As previously reported, an exciting focus of this spring was to be the completion of the accreditation process for St. Ignatius Catholic School. The school was granted an initial accreditation status with the Western Catholic Education Association in the fall of 2017 shortly after opening. In 2019, we determined that St. Ignatius was ready undertake permanent accreditation status and we have, since that time, been working steadily toward that goal.

After spending the last year completing our self-study, making informed goals, and creating an evidence bank to support our study, we were ready to complete our on-site evaluation. In March, we were scheduled to host a team of outside educators chosen by WCEA to visit our school, assess the findings of our self-study, observe our staff and students, and visit with students, staff, and stakeholders. Due to school closure, our on-site visit was postponed. Due to the on-going closure, this accreditation visit has been rescheduled for September 28-30.

While we were disappointed to not be able to complete these final steps this spring, we feel confident that our strengths and successes will be visible to the team when they are on site and we look forward to completing this accreditation process in the fall of 2020.

Working with Our Partners

We are thrilled to announce that St. Ignatius Catholic School has been granted \$62,500.00 from the JA & Kathryn Alberston Family Foundation to support our early learning programs.

St. Ignatius has once again been blessed by the support of our greater community! We are excited to share that we have received another generous grant from the JA & Kathryn Alberston Family Foundation. This grant will further support our all-day Kindergarten programs.

As many of you know, St. Ignatius received substantial support from JA & Kathryn Alberston Family Foundation when we opened our doors in 2017. Our Leadership Team has continued working with this amazing group and their partner, Bluum, over the last several years as a Bluum "20 in 10 school" for our high performing innovative model. JAKAFF and Bluum are starting a new initiative this year to focus on quality early education and, particularly, the substantial long-term benefits of all-day Kindergarten. After a tour and preview of the great things happening in our early learning program, St. Ignatius was granted \$62,500.00.

We will use this funding to further support our Kindergarten programs. This financial support will help fund the deficit between tuition and the actual cost per student as well as provide opportunities to enhance the resources and support we offer to our students.



COMING TOGETHER EVEN WHEN WE ARE APART..... SPIRIT WEEK

Crazy hair, crazy socks, forts, and PJs...oh my!

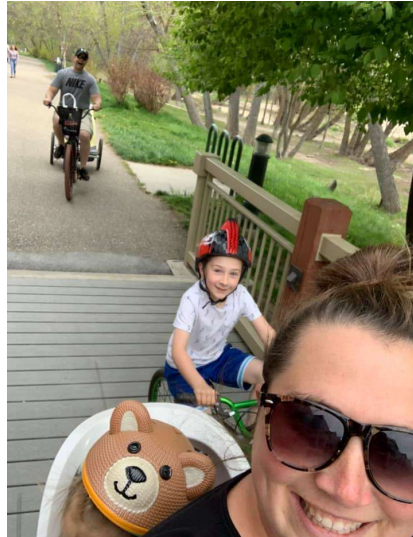


FUN FAMILY CHALLENGE WEEK

Family Challenge Week! April 19th-25th

Complete 5 challenges in 7 days and upload your pictures to the SI Facebook page or send them to SIsentinels@stignatiusmeridian.org

- #1 Family Obstacle Course
- #2 Make a new meal
- #3 30 minutes of physical activity- run, walk, or bike!
- #4 Random Act of Kindness
- #5 Upload a picture on the SI Facebook page with the SI "I am missing..." sign



WE ASK YOU TO PRAY DURING THIS CONTINUED GLOBAL CRISIS...

Please continue to pray for all being seriously affected by COVID-19. We pray for our health care workers, scientists, first responders, and leaders as they work to protect our communities. We pray for the most vulnerable and disadvantaged in our communities who are most heavily impacted by the disruptions caused by this global health emergency. And, mostly certainly, we pray for those individuals suffering and dying from this virus.

Holy Spirit, as families adjust to everyone being home as businesses and schools close, we ask that You guide people in their new realities. Give spouses grace for each other. Prompt worn-out parents to speak words of kindness and encouragement to their children. Help children find creative ways to experience the beauty of all You have created and continue learning.

God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble. Therefore, we will not fear, though the earth give way and the mountains fall into the heart of the sea ...—*Psalm 46:1-2 (NIV)*

St. Ignatius Catholic School
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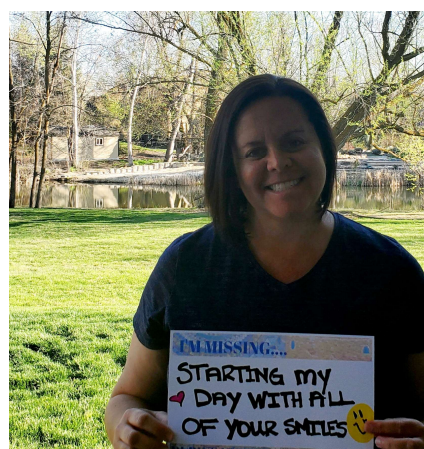
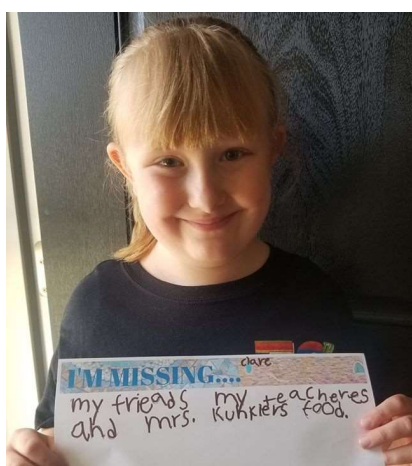
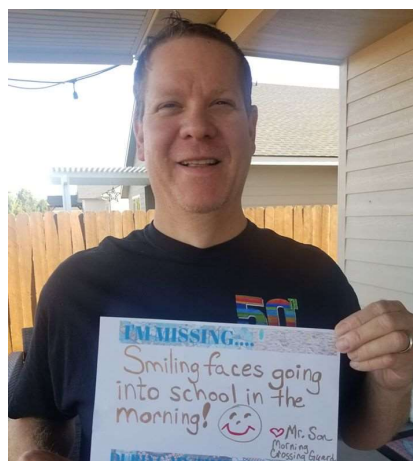
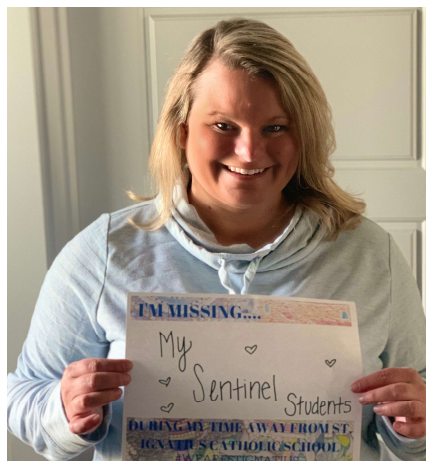
Connect with us!

Facebook: stignatiuscatholicschool

Twitter: @stignatiusid

Instagram: st.ignatiusmeridian

MISSING ST. IGNATIUS....



PLANNING FOR 2019/2020....

Please keep our leadership team and staff in your prayers as we turn our attention to planning for next fall. Our priority is and will continue to be protecting the safety and health of our students, staff and community. We are working with health and education leaders in our community to make plans so that we can safely reopen and stay open in the fall. We are currently working on multiple contingency plans that we can put in place quickly to accommodate the various scenarios that may be present in our community from time to time next fall. The hope is that we will start and continue the year as normal, but if that isn't possible, we will be ready! We will communicate these plans to both existing and new families as soon they are solidified.

#WEARESTIGNATIUS

St. Ignatius School Mission

St. Ignatius is a Christ-centered Catholic school committed to the Ignatian traditions of academic excellence and teaching students to live their Catholic faith through service and the promotion of justice. Our community - school, families, parish - seeks to inspire students to reach their potential, to act with initiative and integrity, and to engage the world as a place where God can be found in all things.