



6905 Blondo Street • Omaha, Nebraska 68104-4600 • (402) 551-6667 • Fax (402) 551-8123

St. Pius X / St. Leo School COVID-19 “Frequently Asked Questions”

Last updated 3/20/20

Principal Cory Sepich

1. Can I get my child’s things/additional materials/etc. from the classroom? I have made the decision to not allow pick up for materials and textbooks from the school while we are out for this extended period of time. Over the past week, I have been in constant contact and continual discussion with both local school and health officials and all of their advice was to “discourage any travel for any reason” and said that with pick up, principals had to decide if it was “100% necessary.” Additionally, their advice was to plan now for the “real possibility of a total shutdown” and that this is more than likely not an “if” but a “when”. Given all of this and all of our work on the “SPSL Distance Learning Plan” I did not feel it was “100% necessary” to risk our students, families, faculty and staff’s health and am confident in our plan and our teachers abilities to help educate our students without the materials and textbooks that are currently at school.

2. How will school proceed while we are away? For all information on educational related questions and concerns, please see first the “SPSL Distance Learning Plan” (DLP) sent out to our families and available on our website under “Daily Announcements”. The DLP has learning goals, social/emotional expectations, academic expectations, communication expectations and work completion/assessment expectations broken down for each grade level. Each grade level will have a plan that they will communicate to their families and students on how they will be checking with your child. Your homeroom and/or content area teachers will be in contact with you at the beginning of each week and throughout the week if need be for education related questions. You will also receive an email from us with all Specialty related classes such as Music, Art, Physical Education, Library and Technology expectations for that week.

3. How will we get work back to the teachers? How will it be graded and recorded? The teachers have been using our time the past week to prepare for distance learning and we will communicate to our families on anything related to 3rd Quarter grades in time. Per our Superintendent of the Omaha Catholic Schools’s advice and recommendations, for 4th Quarter grades, this will be during a time of uncertainty and uncharted territory, so we do not want to focus on grades in the traditional sense. The big picture here is to keep kids learning, growing, and progressing to the best of our ability. We want the staff to focus their time and efforts on pushing authentic content, and not being consumed with gathering back all the work assigned, grading it, and assigning point values to put into PowerSchool. The Quarter 4 Report Card will certainly look different and that has to be expected given this unique circumstance and time in modern history. For these reasons, we are going to focus on a feedback-centered system for the time in which students are completing work outside of the classroom. We believe a system that focuses on feedback helps students work on academic growth without having to worry about a letter grade or points. The end result of this feedback should be to prepare our students for the next academic year while doing everything we can to help our students learn and grow in the now. That being said, this is a HUGE



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mindset shift for all of us. As teachers, we cannot control or mandate the work at home. The teachers are busy pushing content and connecting with students and we are hopeful the work is being done. At the end of each week, the students are going to be providing feedback to the teachers in a variety of ways (different for each grade). This is a fluid process that will adapt and amend over time so please be patient as we explore it together.

4. Do we still make tuition payments? Yes. *The overwhelming majority of paid tuition is compensation for the people who make it happen, and we are trying to maintain income for an already underpaid group of workers.* Your St. Pius X/ St. Leo faculty and staff have been working unbelievably hard this past week. Our teachers are working tirelessly this, including their weekends. I am also certain that our teachers are working even longer hours over this time and will at least be working the same amount of hours in a regular, normal school week over this time we are away. They are that dedicated but I know I am also preaching to the choir. Additionally, many of our hourly staff have been working longer hours in preparation and response to the demands of extra cleaning, sanitizing, communication, organization and other unanticipated hardships. We have staff that are continuing to work on preparation for next year, fundraising and recruitment. The work and how we all have had to proceed may look different, that we all know, but the amount of work has not changed and in most cases, has increased. As Dr. Ashton, our Superintendent of Omaha Catholic Schools, said “*Tuition is not a ticket of admission or fee for services, but a participation in the Church’s or religious order’s support of a school and its future.*” Thank you for your support for our school and its future. I know that we are all struggling at this moment and together, we will get through this.

5. Do we have to make up these days in the summer? We are working on maintaining the school day as much as possible by providing work each week, weekly communication between staff and home, and gathering feedback from students. We are confident that the Nebraska Department of Education will recognize these efforts and we will not have to make up the time. That being said, we have not been given definite answers at this point but will make sure to be in communication on all matters, including this.

6. What about First Holy Communion, 8th Grade Graduation, Mission Day and other school community related events? These are some of the unknowns at this point. It truly depends on how long school is closed and we are just in the waiting place. We will do everything we can to make these events happen for your child and may have to be creative and flexible in how we try to make certain things happen in our parishes and school. Sadly, one day that we are certain that will need to be canceled for this year is Mission Day. We looked forward to celebrating extra hard for next year’s Mission Day.

7. What about Extended Care? All questions regarding Extended Care or before-/after-care should be directed to Cat Flores (cat.flores@spsl.net) or Cheri Freese (cheri.freese@spsl.net). Thank you to all for the flexibility and understanding in this time of uncertainty. This is a learning process for all of us and there will be some growing pains as we move forward. Please know you can always contact us with questions that arise. We plan on sending out an email to our families shortly stating that we can credit the monies to our families accounts to use when school reopens.



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