Dear Parent,

So we finished our first day of distance-learning! The feedback I received both from teachers and parents is that it seemed to go rather well. Most importantly, I think it provided a sense of normalcy for all of us, and that seems really important at this moment.

We already learned a few things that I would like to share with you as follows:

“8 to 3” is meant to show the hours that the teachers will be available, less lunch recess and prep times. Your children are NOT expected to work that entire time. Some will finish the work much faster and for some it will take a little longer, but NO child should work from 8 to 3 nonstop. Independent work always goes faster than when a group works in a classroom. Following the schedule does help sustain your child’s sense of normalcy, but it’s not required.

In addition to their weekly lesson plan, our specialists are now providing extra, fun activities that are not Internet-based. These can be used by your family or for you to suggest to your children when they finish their work and need something else to do. These are by no means requirements but may keep them occupied while you get some work done.

The teachers will continue posting the next day’s lessons late the night before. This is to prevent our overachievers from working nonstop. We highly encourage your students to intersperse their work with the above mentioned fun, creative, and as often as possible, physical activities.

We understand that posting the assignments late at night prevents parents of our younger students from easily planning their next day. If that is the case in your household, just let the teacher know you’ll lag a day behind in assignments.

If you are looking for resources to help you talk to your child about COVID-19, or if your child is feeling a sense of anxiety about the situation, you can go to our guidance counselor Grace Zorn’s webpage. There you’ll find resources and some fun family activities encouraging mindfulness.

While the governor has stated that no school would be penalized for not for filling the number of hours required for a school year, Waldron prides itself on the caliber of students it produces, and this year will be no different. This means we will continue to provide your students with a quality education, different though it may be. This means we will be taking attendance on a daily basis. In grades 1-8, teachers will take attendance through the student’s use of classroom assignments. In kindergarten and Montessori 5, the teachers will be in touch with parents to verify their daily participation. We are not required to report attendance in preschool, pre-k, or the Montessori three and four-year-old program.

We cannot thank you all enough for your participation in this first ever endeavor. I’m sure we’ll all end up with a keen appreciation of teachers by the time we are through!

And finally, as always, I remind you to keep God in your thoughts. Turn to prayer, especially family prayer. It’s really powerful!

In Mercy and Prayer,
Ann Marie