



**800 Cypress Street, Rome, New York 13440 (315) 336-6190**

April 10, 2020

Dear Rome Catholic Families,

Let me start by saying God bless all of your families. I hope you are all well and safe. This is certainly not the school year we all expected. I know I speak on behalf of all of the faculty and staff when I say that we miss the students and families immensely and would like nothing more than this situation to resolve so that we may return to school under safe and healthy conditions. Until then, we must continue our school year in the best way we can.

As you may know, Governor Cuomo has extended the school closure to at least April 29<sup>th</sup>. With that in mind, Rome Catholic teachers will cover new material from the curriculum beginning the Week of April 13<sup>th</sup>. It is imperative that we work as a team to accomplish this. Your open communication will be most helpful to accomplish this task as we move forward with this new endeavor.

- PreK instruction starts on the 13<sup>th</sup>
- K-6 starts on the 14<sup>th</sup> with a book pickup (see below). Actual instruction will begin the 15<sup>th</sup>.

**Lessons:**

Families should expect school work to take the following amount of time each day:

PreK 60-80 minutes, core units will be covered, video conference check ins and short lessons will occur, and a variety of follow up activities will be offered so that families can choose what will work best with what they have at home.

K-2 60-80 minutes, a combination of video conference lessons and follow up assignments.

3-6 60-80 minutes, a combination of video conference lessons and follow up assignments.

PE, Music, Art, and Library will provide one lesson per week.

Your child's teacher will build a schedule that works best for the class. We are not trying to replicate the entire school day. Teachers will be selective with lessons and choose what they think will be most helpful as students move forward in the year and look towards next year.

This time expectation will build up. All at once it would be overwhelming for all of us. We are all writing history together. We will continue to work as a team to make this work. There are a few things we ask from you at home:

- Let us know what you need to make this work. It is a lot if you are working from home or are an essential worker. If you are not currently participating in lessons, you must begin to do so. Please contact your child's teacher or contact me and let us know what we can do to make this run smoother for your family. Maybe you are all sharing the same computer or your hours make it hard to get to lessons. Let us know so we can help.

- K- 6 students need their desk materials. Therefore, we will have a social distancing pickup for those materials in the main circle driveway. Simply pull up, tell us your child's name and we will put the books in your trunk.
  - **Tuesday, April 14<sup>th</sup>, 10am-12pm K-6 Book Pickup**

### **Grading:**

#### **PreK:**

PreK teachers will work with families to make as many observational notes as possible given the nature of how PreK typically works for developmental observations. They may ask families for input and pictures or notes about how your child did during an activity.

#### **Grades K-6:**

Marks for the **third quarter** will simply stop at when we left school on March 13<sup>th</sup>. We were not taking grades for the work done from then until now, however if your child's teacher felt they had improved, they will indicate that in the comments on the report card. The comments will let you know what the teacher observed during this review time.

Moving forward, the assignments will be graded and reflected in the manner of completed versus not completed. Completed meaning that your child accomplished the goal of the lesson and the teacher observed that they completely understood the concept. Incomplete means that the goal was not completely understood. This can be compared to a pass/fail system. Again, comments on the report card will reflect the teacher's observations.

More important than grades at this time are the social/emotional needs of students and families. We want to maintain the relationship between child and teacher as much as possible and to support you through this difficult time.

Registration for UPK for the 2020-2021 school year has been postponed for the time being. We will keep you informed when it is rescheduled as will Rome City School District.

Kindergarten through Grade 6 registration for Rome Catholic continues. Please let us know if we can help with the process.

Due to the fact that our offices are no longer based at school, we will be communicating by emails for all notifications and correspondence. This includes report cards from both Rome City School District (UPK) and Rome Catholic School (Grades K-6). Please be sure that you contact Mrs. Bartell at [mbartell@syrdioocese.org](mailto:mbartell@syrdioocese.org) with the most current email you would like us to use for all future correspondence.

Please do not hesitate to contact your child's teacher via Seesaw, email or whatever platform the class is using, if there are things that we can do to help your family. My email is [newilson@syrdioocese.org](mailto:newilson@syrdioocese.org). Feel free to contact me as well. We are here to help with any questions or concerns.

I join with the faculty and staff in wishing you a very Blessed Easter.

Stay safe, stay healthy, God bless,

*Mrs. Nancy E. Wilson*

Nancy E. Wilson  
Principal