



Aug. 7, 2020

Dear St. Raphael School Parents,

As Phase 2 ends today and we prepare for Phase 3, I want to thank you. This is quite a juggling act. Life is so very different, and I know you are working tirelessly to support your children emotionally, physically, socially, and in their academics as they continue to adjust to being out of school and to distance learning. You are doing this while worrying about your own jobs, sources of supplies and income, health and those you love. We know there is a great deal on you, and we want to be here for you-we are in this together.

As the time out of school goes on, it actually seems to get harder. Some of our kids are extraverts and really thrive on interaction and even for our quieter, more introvert students, this might be a little too much alone time. From the ZOOMs I have attended, they just want to be normal, get back to regular life. We all do!

When we started this time out of school, we said we were going to strive for balance and that continues to be our goal. Thank you for encouraging your kids to work hard, play hard, eat meals as a family, and breathe! When the weather cooperates, the outside is a wonderful relief! One frequent comment I have heard is in reference to specials. We kept specials in our schedule to allow our students to have an outlet and to express themselves creatively. Please do not let this be a source of stress for your child/children.

Phase 3 begins April 27, 2020. During this phase, the focus will be on critical standards. Each teacher will identify the most important standards to cover before the school year ends. The list will be shared with me. This approach will provide focused instruction and assessment on those priority standards. This means we will reduce the amount we intend to cover. Hopefully making learning more manageable and lowering intensity. Our teachers will continue to score assessments but the assessment message entered in Rediker will be that they have met the goal, need to revise the work, or they have not done the work/accomplished the expectation. And it will be entered in Rediker in the following ways:

Met - the standard was achieved

Revise - assessment needs to be resubmitted

Incomplete – work was not submitted

The goal here is to reduce the stress of being grade oriented and increase the learning! We have essential information that is foundational for beginning the next year, these will be the standards we keep. The extra pieces, supporting learning, will be alleviated for now and will be incorporated in the beginning of the new school year.

Standardized testing scheduled for Spring 2020 has been cancelled. This includes Scantron testing in reading, math, and science as well as the Faith Knowledge Assessment.





Quarter 4 on our report cards will be slightly different. For Grades PreK-3, our regular progress reporting tool on the report card will be used (ME met expectations). Our teachers will enter an "I" for Incomplete work and expectations not met. Please speak to your teacher with questions.

For Grades 4-8, students will receive either a "P" for Pass or an "I" for Incomplete. Final grades will be calculated by the teacher based on the first three quarters, Phases 1 and 2, and the quality of work during Phase 3. Ideally this will reduce pressure.

Finally, our campus closure should not take away from our traditions. We will delay our celebration of the sacraments to the fall with our First Eucharist students and our Confirmation class. We are working to celebrate our 8th Grade and to create some special memories that allow them to mark this milestone and us to celebrate their accomplishments. We will be announcing a virtual Cinco de Mayo to kick off our Online Auction and I trust it will be a way to come together with friends we miss and to support SRS.

Again, I thank you and I assure you that I pray for you and your families every day. This too will pass-but not soon enough.

God bless!

Love,

Teri Dwyer
Principal

