

April 7th, 2020

Dear Families,

With such uncertainty during this tough time, I never thought we'd have to resort to remote teaching for our students for the rest of the 2019-2020 school year. While I know this is extremely challenging for all parties, and extremely sad that we will not be returning for the remainder of the year, I want to personally thank you for being so flexible during this unexpected time. As our school launches a new remote learning platform I know there will be a lot of questions that may arise. Please know that I am here to support you as best as I can during this time and for the rest of the school year. I am learning how to use the new program, so please be patient with me. I hope you find the following information helpful as we navigate the remainder of the school year together.

The learning platform that grades PreK - 3 will be using is called **Seesaw**. This site is perfect for these grade levels because it is extremely interactive with remote learning, and easier to understand and easier for our younger students to navigate. Every student will login with their email and password for Google, and students and easier for our younger students to navigate. There are also fun and different ways for students to respond to assignments such as drawing a picture, typing a response, video responding and much more. The best part about Seesaw is that everything your student works on can be linked to the SACS's online learning portfolio for our school. I have already been sending logins for Seesaw, so please reach out to me if you are unable to access it. With Seesaw's policies and our school's goal to maintain confidentiality, you will not be able to see other students work/posts on the Seesaw site. This may change in the future for our school, but for now your child will only have access to their own work. I am able to comment, give feedback, reassign work, etc. so please keep a lookout for that as we begin Seesaw on Monday April 13th.

As Seesaw will be our main platform for interactive learning, we will also still be using our other learning sites such as lexia, i-ready, education.com and raz-kids, as they go hand in hand and offer more individualized learning opportunities. I will be creating a schedule to follow weekly, but the best part about the schedule is that it is flexible to meet your family's needs. I will be posting assignments, and you are able to respond on your own time. I will be taking attendance daily through your child's participation on Seesaw, i-ready, lexia, education.com and our class meetings on Zoom. I can't wait to see all the wonderful work your child is doing at home!

At 11:00 AM Monday through Friday we will be participating in live zoom chats. Zoom is a video conferencing site that we will use to hold our class morning meetings. I know there have been lots of questions recently regarding the safety of Zoom, and I want to assure you that every teacher has access to a SACS Zoom account which has additional security features. Our Zoom meetings will be password protected, so you may only enter if you have the password,

and when the teacher approves students access in the waiting room. This is just another measure to protect our student's safety. I will be handing out a new password and invite for every Zoom meeting that we have in the future. I understand the 11:00 AM time slot every day may not work for everyone; however, that time slot was taken into consideration knowing families may have more than one child in the home on another team. The time we were given is ensuring that team Explorers grades 1-3 will have that time free for Zoom calling each day. Mondays and Thursdays I volunteer at the school to hand out lunches. On those days, Ms. Benedict and Mrs. Lapointe will be running the Zoom meetings. I hope you can be a part of it!

Lastly, I know this can be extremely overwhelming and it's helpful to have **ONE** place to go for everything. Our SACS technology team is so amazing that they've been able to create **ONE** website for you to go to access **ALL** the learning tools that you may need. It will be linked to the school website. That site is set to launch on Monday morning for families, and I will let you know as soon as it's up and running for you to check out. As always, it is helpful to continue to check and/or subscribe to the SACS Daily Announcements as it will provide the most updated information day by day from school and our administrators.

Again, I have to send out a **HUGE THANK YOU** to you all for being a parent **AND** an educator during this time. I know this is not easy for any of us, but please know that I understand how important family time is, and have fun learning together without pressure. I want to be able to best support you, so I will have office hours set up for you to contact me and ask me questions. My hope is to share a weekly schedule with you for our activities and tasks, so please keep an eye out for that as well.

I am sending my students and families my love and well wishes.

Thank you for doing all you do!

-Macy Dupont
First Grade Teacher
St. Albans City School