

Dear Parents,

DATES:

Monday, March 23rd- Begin Spring Break

Monday, March 30th- Five Days of online instruction

Friday, April 3 and Saturday, April 4- Beauty and the Beast- at this time postponed until further notice

Monday, April 6th- School reopens (contingent upon any further word from the governor's office)

Friday, April 10th- Good Friday- No School

Monday, April 13th- Easter Monday- No School

Friday, April 17th- Grandparent's Day (cancelled)

Friday, April 24th- Kindergarten Screening (Decision pending what happens in the next couple of weeks)

Notes:

- This "Dear Parent" edition is being shared with our new families that have recently registered. I would like to welcome you to the St. Chris family and am thankful that you have the confidence in our faculty and staff to provide your child(ren) the best academic and spiritual education in the area.
- Remote Learning: We have now completed Day Four of our remote learning program. Please note these bullet points:
 - Tech Support Phone Number- 937-540-0109 Parents, if you are having technical problems please call Julie Wheeler, Technology Director, at this number. It is much easier to resolve messages via the phone versus email messages. Mrs. Wheeler has indicated that she is available from 9:00 AM to 9:00 PM. She will also be available during Spring Break.
 - The St. Chris School Website's Home Page has detailed information on educational sites that are free. User names and passwords are on this page. As a parent, I would utilize these sites to assist you in providing supplemental and enrichment activities.
 - IMPORTANT: Teachers have posted their office hours for communication. Our faculty will be flexible and reasonable on assignments being completed, but there is the expectation that assignments will be completed and completed in a timely manner.
 - Mrs. Bade has Google Classroom set up for her Grade 3/6 religion classes and Music K-5, and 6, 7, and 8.
 - In our course of study there are standards and objectives to be taught and understood. I call this the WHAT of teaching. WHAT our students are to know has not changed. The HOW is the methodology, pedagogy and artistry of teaching. Because we have gone to online instruction, the HOW has changed. This will take some adjustments and adaptations, but I feel confident this will be a successful practice. The HOW WELL is the assessment aspect of education. Have our students gained understanding and

knowledge of the standard and skill that has been taught? Assessing a student's understanding is important and is going to be challenging, as instantaneous feedback and dialogue (questions and answers) will be limited because we are not in a classroom environment.

- Kindergarten and First grade parents, I cannot emphasize enough the importance of reading to your children, working on their writing and basic math facts on a daily basis. In my opinion, it is our younger students who will be missing out the most because of the lack of direct instruction.
- I will also suggest another site given to us by one of our textbook vendors- Sadlier.
<https://SadlierConnect.com/@learnfromhomeschool>
User Name: SadlierStudent
Password: ReadyToLearn!
And
www.abcmouse.com/redeem The user code is school6225
- Monday, March 23rd, we will be observing our spring break, so no assignments will be given. On Monday, March 30th we will resume our online instruction.
- As information comes from the governor's office in relationship to what is happening with the schools, I will keep you informed.

- I know these are difficult times and there are families that are struggling and suffering due to much uncertainty on so many fronts- the economy, extent of closures, fearful of contracting the disease, and when will this end. It is a time for reflection on what we truly value and what is MOST important to us. I would like to share an article I wrote for the Leibold Link back in 2010 while I was principal at Bishop Leibold.

Our Greatest Joy

The past couple of years I have been fortunate to go on retreat at the beginning of August with a group of fellow Catholic educators involved with a program called the St. Remy Initiative. This year's trip took us to the Benedictine ArchAbbey in St. Meinrad, Indiana. The retreat gives one time for prayer and spiritual renewal. It also allows an individual a chance to reflect on their life and in the case of a school principal, the upcoming school year.

The quiet time, the community spirit that has formed with the St. Remy group, and being present in such holy places is a cherished time. Of course, all of this being said, you still have the issue of a long bus ride to and from your destination. Fortunately for me, the return trip home was made bearable by the viewing of a movie starring Jack Nicholson and Morgan Freeman called the "The Bucket List". To give you a short synopsis, two men share a hospital room to find out they both have been given a death sentence, as they have been told they have terminal cancer. Jack Nicholson is a multi-millionaire executive whose life has been successful financially, but has been a wreck from a family and moral standpoint. Morgan Freeman is an auto mechanic, a church going family man, who has watched his children grow and become productive members of society. The two men challenge each other to fight

their illnesses and live a full life in the time they have remaining and complete a list of accomplishments in the time they have remaining from their "Bucket List". The movie depicts how they live life to its fullest and experience joy and happiness in the friendship they develop as they face the prospect of death together.

The movie is certainly comical and heartwarming, but there is one scene that brings the most meaningful dialogue and to me the most important message from the movie. Morgan Freeman asks Jack Nicholson two pointed questions. What brings joy to your life? and How do you bring joy to others? The multi-millionaire has difficulty in answering these two questions. He has all of the material possessions one could want, but he has no faith, no family relationships and nothing of true meaningfulness in his life. His human experience may be considered the dream of most people, but as was so pronounced in the movie, the person with the delight and greatest happiness in his life was Mr. Freeman. His life embodied the "fruits of the Holy Spirit"- charity, joy, patience, kindness, goodness, generosity, gentleness, faithfulness, modesty, self-control and chastity.

The message we try to get across to our students at Bishop Leibold is that the truly happy person is the one who lives and possesses the values stated above. Our greatest joy in our human experience is the love we feel and share through our relationships with family, friends, co-workers, fellow parish members and those that we help, and mostly through the love we feel being a "child of God.

"We do not have to become heroes overnight. Just a step at a time, meeting each thing that comes up, seeing it is not as dreadful as it appeared, discovering we have the strength to stare it down." -Eleanor Roosevelt