

SAINT BERNADETTE SCHOOL

Everyone in April 2020:



Small school...from a distance.

[School Website](#)

[Parish Website](#)

Dear Parents and Guardians,

Please offer a prayer for our teachers tomorrow. We are on a "virtual" Lenten retreat tomorrow morning, and as mentioned in my last email, please do not expect a response to emails or phone contact on April 3 until after lunch.



Two new announcements have confirmed a longer period of social distancing and online school:

1) Governor DeWine has announced schools will remain in a distance-learning modality until May 1 (at least). We will take a break at St. B from after tomorrow until April 14. This means that teachers will be entering grades for any work that has been assigned so far. If your child is missing assignments, they really need to be turned in.

2) The US bishops have suspended public Masses until May 3. This means that First Communion celebrations will need to be moved/changed. Please check in with the parish website for more information from time to time. As of this newsletter, the information is only a few hours old, and no firm plans have been discussed yet.

Remember:

- **Students in Grades K, 1, and 2: Drop off has been changed to Friday evening, April 3** and will include any hard copy assignments from last week and this coming week, unless you've submitted them in some other way. We collect between 4-6 p.m. on 4/3, in the bus lane and under the overhang between the modular and the main building. Donations to CC Health Dept. and SVD will also be accepted there.
- **Grades 4-8:** No drop off; all assignments are to be submitted online, but feel free to drop off any donations on Friday from 4-6 p.m.

Thank you for completing the surveys! We received 172 responses out of a possible 208 (83%). See the article, below.

Do you have some photos regarding distance learning yet to share for our yearbook? Mrs. Proffitt would love to see your submissions. Please send your photos directly to her at hproffitt@stbernadetteamelia.org.

"Do your part and stay apart!" is the most recent slogan I've heard. Please be well. Of the 172 respondents, only five reported having someone ill at home; here's to everyone staying healthy.

Blessings on your family in these strange and difficult times,

~Mrs. I

SURVEY RESULTS

Overall, our families seem to be coping pretty well by their own admission. A good many of you feel uncertain and stressed, which is to be expected, and yet many of you add that you are drawing upon your faith, staying optimistic, and doing your best to enjoy time with family.

This data snapshot was taken four of five days ago, and some things may have shifted. Although a few people reported economic uncertainty as a stressor right now, I expect that number to rise as we hear of additional measures that are slowing the economy and hurting income. Ohio, as you know, still has relatively few cases of the illness, and we are told to expect graver days ahead. It's even more important, now that we all see how the academic pieces are falling into place, to turn to faith and to those aspects of our lives that are positive. School can be a constant for your child in the days to come, and an anchor for your time at home.

Many parents shared concerns about dealing with the school part at home. Some of this uncertainty is reflected in the confidence parents have that their children are learning/growing via homebound instruction. Three percent (3%) are NOT confident home-bound instruction is "working," compared to 43% who are somewhat confident, and 53% who are confident. The interpretation of the data is made more complex depending on a number of factors:

- a) 64% of parents are also working from home, while dealing with their child(ren) and school work. Most report this has a challenge;
- b) of the 36% not working from home, about a third mention they are working outside the home (versus not working at all). Since I didn't ask for a specific explanation of employment, I do not know an accurate number, but those who are essential employees are further stressed by the worry of bringing COVID-19 home to their families;
- c) most parents are not trained educators and all parents have grown-up sized worries, so managing school work, especially with more than one child, or with a

child who struggles with focus and organization is really hard to do. Several mentioned a worry that they may not be instructing their child correctly;

d) it's hard to know when to quit...and when to crack the whip. Most children ages 12 and up have a harder time learning from a parent. Younger children naturally have a shorter attention span, but also have simpler tasks and the temptation might be to over-assist. Frustration, annoyance, a lack of cooperation or patience on the part of either person make supervising schoolwork tougher. When a child is in a group of students, they adjust themselves a little bit. The classroom can smooth a lot of rough edges, but if your child is one who is particularly distractible or who typically takes a very long time to complete work, you as a parent are seeing this in a new way. Without the classmates in the room demonstrating how long a task might take, it's common to see a child either rush through, or take forever.

So how long SHOULD your child be working?

When we line up the average time-on-task by grade, we see a natural progression of 90 minutes on average (kindergarten) to 3-4 hours per day (jr. high students). There are outliers in every grade, and in reporting. Since the approach to schoolwork varies by family...same time per day, or several times in smaller bites...and by student (level of independence, distractibility, and interest) we had some families report less than 30 minutes for kindergarten, and some families report "all day long" in other grades.

Here are the averages:

K: 90 minutes

1: 75-90 minutes

2: 2-2.5 hours

3: 3-4 hours (wide variances, but most reporting 3 or 4 hours)

4: 3 hours

5: 3 hours

6: 3 hours

7&8: 3-4 hours (wide variances in a handful of cases, but most reporting 3-4 hours)

I asked parents in grades 5-8 about the amount of work assigned by subject. I reserved this question for parents of students who have more than one teacher and therefore a variety of people assigning work. Overall, respondents said the amount of work assigned seemed "just right." In the junior high, there was an overall "just right" rating of 75%. For one subject, there was a low-ish "just right" rating for 21 out of 34 responses (with a few saying more should be assigned and several saying less should) and the least variance in another subject had 30/34 saying "just right" with four responses in the "a little" too much or too much work range. These ratings are in line with our experience of students when we are in the regular classroom.

Under the circumstances, I am extremely pleased with the data. I think we are definitely in the ballpark of doing the best we can. Our teachers have been reflecting on their processes and their curricular requirements with an eye toward student growth, and they have been building their knowledge of online resources exponentially. Our families and students have really been working hard to stay with us in this environment. I expect us to only get better.

We got a lot of good suggestions for improving the delivery of instruction, or organizing information on the surveys, too. Teachers were given the results of their respective surveys and we will spend some time as a staff to discuss the next two weeks of instruction (April 14-May 1) before our retreat tomorrow.



CANNED FOOD DRIVE and KROGER GIFT CARDS

Please continue to bring in canned foods and any non-perishable items, paper towels, toiletries, cleaning supplies, etc. to help replenish the shelves for our St. Vincent DePaul Society. We will continue to collect all through Lent. Families may drop off donations to school or during the drop off/pick up times for student classwork. Please be

generous. Kroger gifts cards, or money donated to help purchase them, are needed for our families who will now depend on St. Vincent DePaul's food pantry to help offset the larger grocery bills and lack of school-based lunches that this extended closure will inflict.

EDCHOICE UPDATE: The designated schools list has officially been reverted to the list from 2019-2020, so new schools, particularly those in our area, are no longer on the list. If you are contemplating an application for the income-based scholarships, remember that the **deadline is still APRIL 15**. The form is below. Email me if you have any questions.

The form is titled "EDCHOICE SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM 2020-2021 RENEWAL FORM" and is provided by the Ohio Department of Education. It is divided into three main sections: Student Information, Primary Guardian, and Secondary Guardian. Each section contains fields for name (first, middle, last), date of birth, gender, physical address, city, state, zip, phone, and email. The Student Information section also includes questions about the school district, enrollment status, and siblings. The Guardian sections include checkboxes for "Natural Parent", "Adoptive Parent", and "Residential Parent", along with a note that legal custodians must provide documents. A footer instruction states: "PLEASE ATTACH A CURRENT UTILITY BILL AND RETURN TO PRIVATE SCHOOL BY April 15, 2020."

Quick Links

[School Calendar 2019-20](#)

[March Lunch Menu](#)

[Cafeteria Volunteer Sign-up](#)

[Recess Volunteer Sign-up](#)

[FACTS Login](#)

[Parish Website](#)

[PTO](#)

[Virtus Login](#)

[Schoolbelles \(code S1952\)](#)

[Gradelink](#)

[Newsletters/Handouts](#)

[Parent/Student Handbook](#)

[Virtues in Practice \(at home materials -](#)

[Year III, Year of Charity\)](#)

[Kroger Rewards](#)

[Scrip Order Form](#)

[Box Tops Bonus App](#)

[Sign Up for REMIND](#)

[Mental Health Resources \(click below\)](#)

[1n5 Foundation](#) (for great information)

[Mind-Peace](#) (click on Search for Providers)

