

May 3, 2020

Dear Upper School Students and Families:

With only two weeks of online classes left, it's worth perusing PlusPortals one more time to see if there are any overdue or incomplete assignments. No academic work will be accepted after Thursday, May 21.

● **Renaissance** testing is happening this week and next in Language Arts and Math classes. Students will need to have their video cameras enabled via Zoom throughout each test. While conditions under quarantine mean that this data will essentially have an asterisk next to it, we still are curious how students are progressing: we'd rather know more than less.

● Parents of sixth and seventh graders have been sent selection forms for either **Spanish, Latin, or French** courses next year. Selections must be emailed to me by May 15; otherwise students may be less likely to receive their top choice. Current fifth graders don't need to make selections, as they will get a taste of each of those three languages next year. I anticipate Spanish being fully enrolled; if you wish for a smaller-class experience, you might consider one of the other two options.

● Selection forms for **Band or Choir** for current fourth and seventh graders will go out shortly. We will assume that students now in fifth or sixth grade will continue with their music selection from this current year. If a student wishes to switch from one group to the other, parents should contact Ms. Stafford and/or Dr. Antista.

● We will send out **summer reading lists** in the next week if you wish to get a jump on ordering books. Instructions for book reports as well as math packets will be distributed with report cards after the school year ends.

● The final week will include year-end video celebrations and also require the **exchange of materials** between students and teachers on campus. Eighth graders get to keep their Chromebooks upon graduation. For everyone else it's vital that we receive both the device itself and its charger back. All Upper School students, furthermore, will need to return any additional school property, such as textbooks, still in their possession and retrieve personal materials left in lockers, as well as their Yearbook, their portfolio of artwork, and perhaps some miscellaneous items. The entire process should take less than five minutes, and, for safety's sake, we are going to space out the Upper School students in four separate shifts, according to last name:

Wednesday, May 20

3:00-4:00 p.m. - last names **A-F**

4:00-5:00 p.m. - last names **G-L**

Thursday, May 21

9:00-10:00 a.m. - last names M-R

10:00-11:00 a.m. - last names S-Z

If your family absolutely can't swing through during your scheduled time, you may choose another (please let your advisor know beforehand), but we must spread out the foot traffic as much as possible. This will not be a time for students to catch up with one another—rather, it's a quick grab-and-go. Masks highly recommended!

● Following the end of the academic year, teachers will finalize grades, and **report cards** will be put in the mail soon thereafter. Please note: if a student's final year-end grade in a core subject (English/Language Arts, Math, Social Studies, Science, Spanish, or Latin) is below a C-, the student will be **required** to do additional summer work in that content area. Evidence of completion of that work will need to be furnished before the resumption of classes in the fall. I will reach out as needed to students and families in such an event.

Best wishes,

Alex Hawes

Useful links:

St. Michael's Distance Learning Webpage

<https://stmichael.net/covidresponse/distancelearning/>

PlusPortals

<https://www.plusportals.com/SaintMichaelsParishDaySchool>

Arizona Together

<https://arizonatogether.org/>

This is a thorough compilation of resources, regular information updates, and links to community support.