

May 10, 2020

Dear Upper School Students and Families:

We are truly in the final stretch. This upcoming week marks the last week of scheduled classes and Zoom sessions. Many students can't wait for the freedom of summer, while others might be anxious about even greater isolation once online classes end. Mr. Sullivan's letter this week will include a short survey asking for feedback on our current distance learning program and on interest among families for possible summer offerings.

The last few weeks of the school year are always thrilling and a bit confusing so please make careful note of the following:

- **Renaissance** testing is concluding this week. If your student was unable to take either the Reading or Math test, there will be a make-up test session later in the week. I will let individual families know if that is necessary.
- Selection forms for **Band or Choir** for current fourth and seventh graders will go out this week. 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 have published the Upper School's **summer reading lists** on the stmichael.net website 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 and **sports uniforms**, 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. 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 (but please let your advisor know beforehand). However, 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 are highly recommended!

● Eighth grade families will be receiving further details of our “**drive-in graduation**” at La Mariposa Resort, held on Saturday, May 23. Graduates and their families will watch a video celebrating the Class of 2020, professionally produced by Alex and Katherine Leyton, on a giant inflatable movie screen from the safety and comfort of their cars. It should be both a joyous and bittersweet occasion, one acknowledging the safety precautions necessary at this time.

● 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.