

Distance/Remote Learning F. A. Q. at St. Maria Goretti Catholic School

Some families may need to continue with the distance learning option due to health concerns. St. Maria Goretti Catholic School is committed to providing the same rigorous, quality education and religious formation, delivered in our classrooms, to our students choosing the distance learning option. Distance learning will include daily live teacher-led instruction along with independent activities through Seesaw in grades PK – 1 and Google Classroom in grades 2-8. All live teaching will be conducted through a video conferencing tool such as Zoom, Microsoft Teams, or Google Hangouts. A structured schedule will be provided to students indicating required times for participation in approximately 3 – 5 hours of live instruction each day. The Learning Support teachers will continue to work with students and classroom teachers in implementing Student Academic Plans (SAPs). Administration will work with families and students to ensure there is adequate technology support, support Catholic Identity through weekly Mass and student engagement, and establish ways of maintaining community while distance learning.

How do I let the school know that we plan to choose the Distance/Remote Learning option for my child(ren)?

It is preferred that families commit by quarter. Families may commit to Distance/Remote Learning for the first quarter of the 2020-2021 school year, and will later have the opportunity to choose to either continue distance learning or move to on-campus learning for the second quarter. If a family encounters an extenuating circumstance in which distance learning or on-campus learning would be better suited for the student, administration will help the family to transition to the preferred mode.

Will the level of instruction, rigor, and expectations be the same for virtual Distance/Remote Learning as in person, On-Campus learning?

Distance/Remote Learning will have a separate design and method of delivery, but will use the same rigorous curriculum as students who are on-campus for face-to-face, live instruction. The level of rigor, workload, time commitment, and expectations will be different from spring, 2020 as we work to more seamlessly align both modes (on-campus and distance/remote) of learning.

During virtual instruction, time management is critical to success. Students and teachers must remain in communication regarding daily schedules and assignments. Teachers will communicate weekly plans for assignments, instruction, and assessments for both on-campus and distance/remote learning students to keep consistent with the requirements of the class.

Will the Distance/Remote Learning curriculum mirror the face-to-face, On-Campus instruction curriculum?

Distance/Remote Learning will have a separate, virtual instructional design, but will use the same curriculum and grading guidelines as On-Campus instruction. Distance/Remote Learning assignments may look different but they will cover the same content and skills as On-Campus instruction.

How will Distance/Remote Learning be different from this spring?

Distance/Remote Learning will have a separate, virtual instructional design, but will use the same curriculum as students who are on-campus for face-to-face instruction. The level of rigor, workload, and time commitment will have the same expectations as being on-campus. This includes requirements for attendance and expectations for turning in assignments on time. Late work policies will apply to all students participating in on-campus or distance/remote learning. Distance/remote learning will have a more independent approach as the student will not be required to attend the class virtually for the same number of minutes as on-campus. Distance/remote learning students are still required to wear their school uniform while in the virtual classroom each day, and to attend weekly, live-streamed Mass.

What will the lessons in Distance/Remote Learning look like?

Students may receive instruction in the following ways (including, but not limited to):

- Authentic student work/assignments with timely and relevant feedback for continued progress in learning of the standard
- Portfolio tasks and turning in of assignments
- Assessments
- Live lessons through a video-conferencing platform, such as Zoom, Google Hangouts, or Microsoft Teams.
- Video lessons
- Project based, hands-on learning/assignments

Will assignments be due daily or weekly with Distance/Remote Learning?

Students will have assignments that are due daily and/or at teacher discretion, just like students attending face-to-face, on-campus instruction.

How will Distance/Remote Learning courses be grade?

Grading for Distance/Remote Learning will follow the same grading policy as the classes that meet face-to-face, on-campus.

What about students receiving specific related academic services?

Students who are provided related services through our Student Success Program (SSP) and who choose Distance/Remote Learning will be provided the opportunity to convene a meeting to revise their supports and services to ensure we meet the needs of our students virtually.

Can my Distance/Remote Learning student participate in Specials classes?

Art, Music, Band, PE, Technology (Computers) and Foreign Language will be offered via Distance/Remote Learning at SMGCS. Please note that students choosing Distance/Remote Learning will not be provided access to art supplies, musical instruments, athletic equipment, computers, etc. that may be needed to participate in these classes. Parents will need to closely monitor and aid in the adjustment of assignments based on materials already in the home to ensure the ensure their student(s) receive the highest-quality education in these (Specials) classes while enrolled in Distance/Remote Learning.

Can my Distance/Remote Learning student(s) participate in campus-based clubs?

This will depend on each club and the restrictions related to each program. More details will be available as information is distributed from TEA and TCC BED, or is formulated by the club moderators.

Can my Distance/Remote Learning student(s) participate in athletics?

This will depend on each sport and the restrictions related to each program. More information will be available as information is distributed from TEA and the Diocesan Athletic Director.

Is the tuition for Distance/Remote Learning the same as On-Campus instruction?

Yes, the tuition for either mode of instruction will remain the same. Both Distance/Remote and On-Campus Learning require the same high level of dedication, commitment, time, and resources from our faculty and staff to ensure that rigorous, quality instruction continues to be delivered. Registered families who may be contemplating Distance/Remote Learning options at a public school rather than returning to SMGCS in the fall should consider the SMGCS *Withdrawal Policy* which can be found on page 12 of the Family Handbook under the Parent Information link on the SMGCS website.