



Curriculum Courier

The Curriculum Newsletter of the Catholic Schools Office in the Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston **SPECIAL EDITION: COVID-19**

Dear Catholic School Teachers,

Did you ever imagine we would be forming disciples of Christ without even having those disciples in the room with us? Did you ever dream we would be planning and delivering instruction that was going to travel through cyberspace and land in someone else's living room? Our current medical and social circumstances have pushed us out of our comfortable normalcy; out into completely new norms, new routines, new learning, and new emotions. Is there anything that isn't different now? Well...yes--our FAITH! *"The Church is a community of human beings who are still subject to sin, and so it is with humility that she offers herself as the meeting place with the living God. Her existence for two thousand years demonstrates the unceasing mercy and love of God in maintaining her in his grace as a faithful and repentant people. In a world of passing fads and transitory ambitions, she offers the substance of the wisdom of the Gospel and her growing understanding of it through two millennia. She offers the possibility of enriching the present moment with the gifts of a tradition rooted in God's self-revelation and with the hope and meaning for human life that come from God himself. In a world torn by war and injustice, she celebrates the death and Resurrection of Jesus Christ, the gift of himself made eternally present and effective, to make all peoples one with him as head of a reconciled and healed community. In a world of violence against human life, the Church mightily defends life by her works of justice and charity as well as by her advocacy for the protection of all human life."---excerpted from the United States Catholic Catechism for Adults*

Our God is living; our God is faithful. Our church stands undisturbed by fear, anxiety, sin, suffering. We are making adjustments to how we worship, but we still worship. We are making adjustments to how we receive Holy Communion, but we still receive communion. *"No one can live without the hope that life has ultimate and lasting meaning beyond the concerns and struggles, the joys and satisfactions of each day. As Catholics, we find the meaning and hope in Jesus Christ, whom God the Father has sent into the world for the salvation of all peoples."* (USCCB.org)

So, it goes without saying that we are also making adjustments to how we reach and teach students, but we are **still reaching and teaching!** It has been truly amazing to learn what you have already been doing to keep yourselves connected to your students and parents. Not only are you taking care of your own families, you are taking time to prepare lessons, record videos, conduct ZOOM meetings, learn new e-learning platforms, take "virtual" attendance, and keep students engaged in immensely creative ways. While this sounds glamorous, we know it is not. There is no amount of gratitude we could extend that would ever match your efforts. We know it is truly a labor of love and a desire to do what is right for the children. This special edition of the Curriculum Courier is dedicated to providing you with some inspiration and resources as you continue to reach and teach through this time of uncertainty. Keep the faith!

Laura Rolo-Director of Instruction

Parents are Saying... The following are positive comments that have come our way regarding your efforts to reach and teach. Enjoy and know what you are doing is making a difference!

I just wanted to make sure y'all realize what an amazing job you're doing! I work for an online school and we have teachers all over the country who are sharing their personal experiences in the districts they live in and we are seeing what's happening with all of the school districts we partner with around the country. Some have just shut down completely, others have sent out just a couple of resources, it's very sad to see. transition to online learning is a true testament to your leadership and their enthusiasm and skill. I really can't say enough what a tremendous job y'all have done. Way to go St. Your story of success is pretty unique. Between Frassati and St Martha, your teachers didn't miss a beat. I was in awe that first day back when all the teachers had everything ready to go! Amazing!! The way they've so smoothly handled the Martha and way to go Catholic Schools!

Don't forget this will all pass and that you're doing an amazing job. Josh, I have been talking with other parent friends who do not attend our school and they are blown away by how fast you reacted and said they were very impressed that our school is able to get work to the kids. I know a lot of our families at the school will find a lot of this difficult and complain a lot about either too much work or not enough etc. But in the grand scheme of things, I think everyone is just worried about what this virus means long term and they don't know how to deal with anything. So from a parent perspective I will say I am grateful for all that you're doing and that the teachers are doing everything they can to keep sending the kids' stuff to work on. I am very blessed to a part of the SMMCS family.

Have you joined your Group yet?

Click the link(s) below to be part of our new, on-line teacher support communities!

Content Area Teachers:

Religion: [Content Area - Religion 5-8](#)

Computer/Technology: [Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston Technology Administrators Group](#)

ELA Middle School Teachers: [ELA - Middle School](#)

Math Teachers: [Content area - Math - 5-8](#)

Science Teachers: [Content Area - Science - 5-8](#)

History Teachers: [Content Area - History - 5-8](#)

Art Teachers: [Content Area - Art - Pre-K - 8th](#)

World Language Teachers: [Content Area - World Languages - Pre-K-8th](#)

P.E. Teachers: [Content Area - P.E. - Pre-K - 8th](#)

Music Teachers: [Content Area - Music- Pre-K-8th](#)

Self-Contained Pre-K – 4th Teachers:

Pre-K: [Self-Contained - Catholic Schools in the ArchGH](#)

Kinder: [Self-Contained - Catholic Schools in the ArchGH](#)

1st Grade: [Self-Contained - Catholic Schools in the ArchGH](#)

2nd Grade: [Self-Contained - Catholic Schools in the ArchGH](#)

3rd Grade: [Self-Contained-Catholic Schools in the ArchGH](#)

4th Grade: [Self-Contained-Catholic Schools in the ArchGH](#)

FEELING ANXIOUS?

GOD SPEAKS TO US IN SACRED SCRIPTURE

Matthew 6: 25-34

Phillipians 4: 6-7

John 14: 1-3

Luke 24: 38-39

Isaiah 35: 4

Psalm 18: 6

Stay connected to your Catholic Faith! The word “Catholic” means universal; we are truly a universal church! Use the link below to experience adoration through live webcams from some unique locations in the United States, and other countries.



<https://virtualadoration.home.blog/>

View and Share These Links with Parents:

- Update from the Office of the Superintendent

<https://youtu.be/yaPQ4gH8RZA>



Transitioning to Distance Learning For Parents

Have a resource to share?

Send it to us at

csogeneral@archcg.org

High student-engagement activities and practice with the **process standards** is at your fingertips for free! Visit www.lead4ward.com, or download the app!

