

ST. ANN'S HOME, INC.

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03/31/2020

Dear parents and district staff,

In my prior communication dated 03/23/20, we had anticipated re-opening our schools on April 7, 2020. On March 25, the Governor announced that public **and private** schools in Massachusetts must remain closed for in-person instruction until Monday, May 4 in order to prevent further spread of the coronavirus (COVID-19). This now includes students in our Day Program. The order does not include residential schools for students with disabilities. As we get closer to May 4, we expect to have more information about whether schools will reopen as planned.

Since the initial closure of our school beginning on March 16, 2020, St. Ann's has taken steps to provide remote educational opportunities for students via hard copy materials and activities; and beginning on March 25, teachers set up "virtual office hours" each school day. They are logged in to their Google Classroom and their school email from 9:00-11:00 am and 1:00-3:00 pm during the school days Monday through Friday. This time is so teachers can help students with questions about activities and materials, and just a time to "chat" and connect. If your student has forgotten the log-in process, please reach out to me by phone or email.

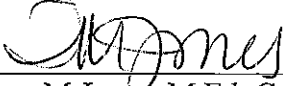
In using a remote learning model, St. Ann's supports students to engage in meaningful and productive learning. Based on state guidelines we recommend this to happen for approximately half the length of a regular school day (up to 3 hours for our students). We expect this learning to take place via a combination of educator-directed learning and student self-directed learning. We recommend that remote learning focus on reinforcing skills already taught this school year, and applying and deepening those skills. I am aware that the individual student experience will vary depending on student age, individual and family needs, access and capacity for remote learning (including access to technology and the internet), and the ongoing health of students, families, and staff. We understand some of our families are unable to access online opportunities and will continue to provide packets by mail and call to check-in. Alternatively, if you or your student prefer hard copy packets, please just let me know!

We do not expect parents to be teachers, and are happy to help provide strategies to structure the day for students to maximize learning opportunities during this unusual and challenging time. This can be done with both the teachers and therapists. We also want to know if you and your children are OK. Please respond to emails and calls so we know how you are doing and if you need help.

In closing, we are working daily to keep informed about any updates and guidance from the state and will assess our responses accordingly. I want to express that I am confident that St. Ann's is making the right decision for the health and safety of our students and residents, their families,

and all our staff, and extend my continued thoughts for the well-being of all our students and their families.

Sincerely,



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Here is a list of high-quality resources for families looking to supplement beyond what teachers have shared. There is a huge amount of online material available. These are ones we have reviewed and know are high quality.

Academics

Khan Academy -Free resource with online lessons and practice problems in math and all areas for students ages 4 - 18 and all levels.

Learning without Tears -Free instruction teaching handwriting.

Lexia-Free High Quality K - 4 Reading Skill development.

Newsela -Free interesting articles in all subject areas and at all reading levels. Many Methuen teachers use this.

Mystery Science -Free K - 5 science material designed to engage students, achieve learning outcomes, and be easy to use. All of the activities are designed to use simple supplies a parent will likely already have at home.

Prodigy -Free math games for children in Grades 1-8.

Zearn -Free math lessons and activities for students to review previous math modules.

Desmos -Online graphing tools.

Geogebra -Online tool for creating geometrical shapes and also simple graphs.

Enrichment

Google Arts and Culture -Free digital arts and culture resources from Museums around the world.

Scholastic -Free curriculum “journeys” for grades K - 12 built around a thrilling, meaningful story or video. Kids can do them on their own or with their families.

PBS Learning -Free, standards-aligned videos, interactives, and lesson plans.

WGBH-Free distance learning programming aligned with PBS Learning Media resources, airing on the World Channel.

Audible.com-Free audible books in English, Spanish and other languages.

Physical Activity

Playworks -Free safe Facebook page to engage in a live recess with a Playworks Coach, who will facilitate fun games to get kids active at home.

Articles

These articles are for caregivers to provide ideas and suggestions during extended school closures:

[How to Prepare for Extended School Closing-And Not Lose your Mind.](#)

[Coping with Anxiety in Time of Pandemic](#)

[Working at Home? Self Isolation Doesn't Have to Be Lonely](#)

[Taking Care of Your Behavioral Health](#)

[How You and Your Kids Can De-Stress During Corona Virus](#)