

UPDATE FROM PK-5 PRINCIPAL MRS. JONES

March 25, 2020

Dear Parents/Guardians,

Let me begin by saying how much we miss all of our students. We are concerned for our students' health and well-being, as well as their families. Although none of us have experienced a pandemic before, the St. Mary's students, parents, educators, county and community leaders, and all other stakeholders has quickly risen to the occasion, as usual! We would like to thank everyone for your kindness and support. We understand many of you are still working and have several children to help, financial concerns, health issues, etc. We are here to patiently support our students and you throughout this challenging time.

Our teachers are making efforts to keep in contact with students by way of emails, notes, Facebook, etc. We are going to do our best to provide schoolwork to keep our students' minds moving forward. But you are the parents and they are with you, so you have control to adjust as needed for your child/children. Any work that teachers are sharing on line are optional. These are just meant to help you keep your children busy and engaged. Please do not stress over the school work via distance learning or printed packets. Frustrations are high due to our circumstances and we don't want to increase the stress on our families. Again, contact your teacher via email or call the school number and leave a message, if you need help. We also ask for your patience and understanding as we travel this new territory, too. Our teachers and other employees are working long hours from home while dealing with their new, but temporary, normal.

Optional On-Line resources

I am excited to see that students are working on the **IXL** program reviewing and improving their reading and math skills. I receive notifications daily on students' progress with IXL. Yesterday I received one that said that students in Grades K-5 had answered 65,000 math questions during the past 10 days! (**See attached certificate**) Reminder: There are also Science and Social Studies modules available. There is a tab at the top of the page by the Math and Language Arts tabs for these.

I have again attached directions (SEE BELOW) on how to get onto the IXL program I have also posted a link to a one page resource with many other on-line resources that you are available to use to help keep students engaged. Feel free to email me if you have questions or troubles with the program with

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1pnYG6VXAo60pLSX5SQvCnVRUHvDJfiGU8tc3t-ZUepo/edit?usp=sharing>

Thank You

Diane Jones

djones@stmarys-storm.pvt.k12.ia.us

IXL LOG-IN INSTRUCTIONS

Dear Parents,

I am providing a number of on-line resources that you are free to use with you children to keep them engaged with their current math, reading, science and social studies curriculums during the time that school is closed. These are not required.

The first link that is available is the IXL website. IXL is designed to help your child learn at his or her own pace. The program is adaptive and will adjust based on your child's understanding of the material. Students have currently been using this for enrichment so most students are familiar with this program.

I have set up grade specific skills that will engage your student and keep them working on skills that they have been working on during the 20019-2020 school year.

Here are the steps to take to get started:

1. Please have them go to the St. Mary's Website <https://www.stmarys-storm.pvt.k12.ia.us/>
2. Have them find the on-line learning tab
3. Click on IXL
4. Enter your child's username and password and click sign in
 - a. Username is: **first name and the number 1: For example mary1**
 - b. Enter password which is **12345**

There are a few students who have the same first name so I have had to create an optional username. I will send you a separate email with that information if this happens to be the case for your child.

Feel free to email me with questions at djones@stmarys-storm.pvt.k12.ia.us

Diane Jones

