



Immanuel Christian Academy

STANDING OUT IN FAITH

for Christ, the community, and one another

April 6, 2020

Dear Parent,

I pray this letter finds you and your family safe and well. I wanted to touch base with you and update you since the closure has been extended to the end of April. We would not be returning to school until May 4, 2020.

This continues to be a pattern of wait and see. There have been several states that have already indicated that students will not be returning to school this year. Illinois has made no such statement. I have been checking with the Illinois State Board of Education daily and have reviewed the daily press conferences of the governor. Should there be any changes, you will be notified.

Due to this extension we have had to cancel several events. All activities in April have been cancelled. Due to the amount of time that would be needed for preparations and rehearsals, the piano recital and school musical scheduled for May have also been cancelled. We are hoping to delay or modify the 7th and 8th grade class trip. No decision has been made regarding any June activities. You will be notified of any changes or cancellations.

I was able to video conference with the faculty last Friday. We discussed the progress of the remote learning plans for each classroom. The teachers are using a variety of programs and platforms to reach and teach students. They expressed how nice it was to be able to see their students and connect with them. Teachers are meeting one-on-one and in group sessions so that the educational process can continue.

I would like to thank and commend our teachers with their dedication and diligence in making all this possible. It has not been easy to learn some of the new technology and new programming in order to continue to provide educational content. In many ways, teachers are doing more work to prepare, plan, and teach.

The state board has also indicated that Act of God weeks and the remote learning weeks are to count as days of attendance for the students. They have also stated that work is to be graded. Our goal is to help our students progress and be as prepared as they can be for the next level of their education. To that end, you can help with remote learning in the following ways:

1. ATTENDANCE – Teachers have set up specific schedules for each classroom. In several cases the schedule is very similar to their normal classroom schedule. Please make sure that your child is participating in the classes at the right time. There may be some instances where a child cannot attend a session. Some classes can be recorded for later viewing. Arrangements can also be made with the teacher for a one-on-one session.

2. ASSIGNMENTS – Please make sure that your child is completing their assignments and turning them in to the teacher. As I mentioned earlier, these assignments will be graded. Incomplete assignments may affect a child's academic standing.

3. LOCATION – When working in a group session, please make sure that your child is in a place with minimal distractions. While I know this may be difficult due to the Stay at Home order, it is helpful when students are working. During a group session all students can see and hear what is going on in the background. Music, TVs, phone conversations, etc. can all be heard. If someone is in the background they can be seen. Please be aware of this when your child is in a class session.

4. GENERAL ETIQUETTE – I would also request that students adhere to some of the school policies when participating in group sessions. Students should not be dressed in pajamas or bath robes during a class period. I know that there are breaks between some of the classes, so students are requested to refrain from eating during class time.

Minimizing distractions helps the teacher to be able to maximize the teaching and helps the student to maximize their learning.

There have been some questions regarding Easter or Spring break. With the initial closing we changed the break to occur during those first two weeks. We changed the original break to just Good Friday and the Monday after Easter. So, there will be no classes on Good Friday or Monday, April 13th.

There have also been continuing questions and concerns regarding tuition. This continues to be an unprecedented situation and I have no set answers at this time. There is no policy in place for such an event as this. It is also difficult to set a policy as this is still a fluid situation. Some parents have considered withdrawing their children or not having their child participate in remote learning. Please do not consider either option. Every student should participate in remote learning no matter the situation. We want every child to be able to continue learning.

I pray that everyone is well and that you all are making the best of this situation. I know that I have enjoyed being able to see my students each day, even if it is remotely. I will continue to keep you all in prayer and I ask that you continue to pray for each other as well.

Blessings to you and your family,

Valerie Winston
Principal