

High School Principal eLedger Submission - for April 2

Article #1 Title: COVID-19: Historic Impact

As our President, Governor and local officials began to comprehend and share the risks associated with COVID-19, together we have watched the unprecedented impact of the pandemic on employers, employees, schools and students, elderly and vulnerable citizens, families and children. Overnight, lifestyles and daily habits have altered to fight the spread of this dangerous virus.

On March 13th, just an hour after our final day of school before Winter/Spring break, with constitutional authority, the State Health Department ordered all schools in Wisconsin to close by March 18th. Subsequent State Health Department orders and mandates of the Governor have followed, extending school closures indefinitely in Wisconsin. The Archdiocese of Milwaukee has also ordered all Catholic schools closed in compliance with these orders. In addition, all Catholic weekday and weekend liturgical services have all been ordered to be canceled by Archbishop ListECKI. Even Easter Vigil and Easter Sunday services may only be accessed remotely through live streaming.

SMSA's Response

Immediately on March 13th, SMSA school leaders began planning ways to effectively continue learning for our students. Through a dynamic team process and common commitment to students and the craft of education, leaders intensified research on best practices of virtual learning. The Leadership Team collaborated with faculty to initiate an indefinite term of virtual learning for the Springs community.

On March 30th, the Springs community officially initiated virtual learning. Continuing student learning through virtual means is an historic undertaking for SMSA and for almost every school in the state. At SMSA, we are blessed with faculty, staff, students and parents who are supportive and ready for all the new opportunities that our "virtual term" may offer. We all understand that there will be challenges, technical glitches and frustrations that may find us along this virtual pathway.

Article #2 Title: Virtual Learning: What to Expect

Virtual Learning Guide (VLG)

The most important common resource we have as a Springs "virtual learning" community is the [SMSA Virtual Learning Guide 2020](#). The VLG has been developed as a 'one-stop-shop' for parents, students and educators. The resource is accessible to all equally. The HS course

pages that are updated weekly by each teacher are especially important to students and parents. At the HS table of contents, you will find links to each academic department and the Counseling Office. By clicking the department links, the viewer is taken to bookmarked pages that have been completed by each teacher for each of the courses for which they are responsible.

These teacher/course specific pages of the VLG provide students (and parents) with clear learning targets for each class, weekly assignments and due dates, links to learning activities for the week and clear directions about what learning behaviors and outcomes are expected.

Attendance?

Teachers and students do not have to be online at the same time to be engaged in learning. During the virtual term, which began on March 30 and will continue indefinitely under the current State mandate, students are required to submit “evidence of their learning” each week to their teachers. Due dates are established and communicated by each teacher. Documenting submissions serves as a DPI and Archdiocesan acceptable way to track student engagement or ‘attendance’ during this period of virtual learning. In the high school, we have established and reserved Wednesday as a required day of “check-in” for students with their classroom teachers. Teachers will be recording attendance with all of their classes on Wednesdays. Friday mornings are reserved as homeroom check-ins for all high school students. Again, students will be invited to these sessions by their homeroom teachers, who will be updating students with SMSA news and also taking attendance.

Instruction

Instruction will occur in a variety of ways, all requiring the use of 21st Century skills. This may include teacher-created videos, chats/forums in Google Classroom, web-based platforms interactive online software, videos from educational resources or written lessons sent through email. Teachers will be inviting students to live class meetings and check-ins through Zoom or Google Hangouts. You will be hearing a lot about Schoology and Google Classrooms. Each teacher is directly accessible to students through email and through defined ‘office hours’ which are both published in the Virtual Learning Guide.

Again, teachers and students do not have to be online at the sametime to be engaged in learning. Many activities will be interactive and students will continue to earn academic credit for all courses. Skyward remains our student data system where official grades and academic progress is recorded. Because of our one-to-one Chromebook program in the high school and through the use of a wide variety of resources and technologies, SMSA teachers are able to creatively engage students to continue learning. We thank God for the vision and commitment of educators and benefactors who have made this a possibility for our students.

Article #3 Title: Key Resources during the COVID-19 Virtual Term

All parents are urged to bookmark the following site and check back regularly. This is the most reliable and important source for keeping parents current during this historic virtual learning term!

<https://www.smsacademy.org/covid19/>

At this site, you will find a hyperlinks to:

- The *Virtual Learning Guide*,
- Weekly prayer and pledge
- Updates about event cancelations and postponements,
- COVID-19 and community health information.

Article #4 Title: End of Quarter III is Friday, April 3: Skyward Access to be Temporarily Blocked

The 3rd Quarter of the academic year was originally scheduled to end on March 27. Due to the extended Winter/Spring Break, the Q3 grading period was also extended by a week to April 3.

As in the past, parent and student access to Skyward is suspended during the grading verification period. So parents should please take note that Skyward will be inaccessible from Friday, April 3 at 3:30pm to Friday, April 10 at 7am. After that time, students and parents will again have complete access to Skyward and may retrieve Q3 grade reports.