



Dear SMS Parents,

Last week, Governor Pritzker made the decision to invoke “Act of God Days” for 14 days from March 17-30. The primary reason was three-fold. First, it allowed the Illinois School Board of Education time to negotiate with Illinois Teachers’ Unions on how to move forward. Second, it is allowing all schools who don’t have an E-Learning Plan the opportunity to create and submit a plan to their Regional Office of Education for approval. Third, it is allowing the Illinois Legislature time to change the current E-Learning max days from 5 days to unlimited in emergency situations. We were very fortunate at SMS to already have our E-Learning plan approved by the Regional Office of Education and in place.

Governor Pritzker has announced the Illinois school closure will now extend to at least April 8. Because of this extension, beginning on Tuesday, March 31, we will officially begin E-Learning at SMS. There will be a shift from extension lessons to lessons that will be counting towards your child’s quarterly grades. Students will be responsible for completing the assignments so that when schools eventually re-open, teachers may continue where they left off with E-Learning instruction. In addition, students and parents are reminded that the completion of E-Learning assignments is essential not only for academic growth, but for justification for promotion to the next grade.

Since SMS spring break is scheduled the week of April 6, our tentative return date is April 13. I am proud of all SMS teachers for seeking out all types of resources to share with students and parents. We have an amazing school family, and in times like this, it definitely shows. Working together; we are making the best of our present circumstance.

Teachers in the elementary have been reaching out to all parents through the email listed on their emergency card. The middle school teachers have been using Google Classroom directly with the students. Please do not hesitate to contact your children's classroom teacher if you have any questions or concerns or need any assistance at all.

Finally the school office is open by appointment only until our tentative return date in mid-April. Please email me @cbrogan@smsrockets.net if an appointment is needed. Also, any financial payments should be mailed directly to the school office.

Let's continue to pray for all of those people worldwide who are currently infected, quarantined, and recovering. I will do my best to keep parents up to date of any changes that are made concerning our current situation.

Prayers,

Cindy Brogan
St. Mary's Principal