

Achieving Success with Virtual Learning

As we continue through an uncharted territory in education for many students, parents, and teachers, we wish to provide some insight on the following pages that can help to alleviate anxiety, while ensuring success with virtual learning at home. The goal of virtual learning is for students to master the most important ideas from classes offered this year. Although virtual learning is very different from attending school in person, we hope that students will treat this as an opportunity to gain, build, and strengthen important skills and abilities, while improving grades and being able to connect with friends daily.

We understand that this can be a stressful time, both academically and otherwise, for our students, parents, and families. Please know that St. Peter Academy is here to support our community throughout this new journey in education. It is our hope that the continuation of learning will help to provide some level of normalcy and routine at home. May the dedicated efforts of our board, faculty, staff, and families, along with the increasing warmth and brightening that Spring days bring, encourage a continuously positive outlook in all of us with knowing that there is always something to look forward to each day!

Happy April!

Mr. Galligan

Mr. Frank Galligan
Principal



St. Peter Academy Recommendations for Virtual Learning



Establish and keep a routine

Based upon the responses we received in recent family surveys, all teachers have reached out to parents and guardians denoting set times that they will be holding class and small group sessions each day. Knowing this schedule, we encourage

families to establish a routine with their children around these time frames. Be sure to include your child's input. Ask them what they normally do in school each day. Aside from building in time for classes and assignments, be sure to include breakfast, lunch, breaks, and necessary exercise throughout the day.

Ensure that your child is dressed and set up for school

How your child is dressed and where they are connected to online learning can really make a difference each day. Encourage your child to be dressed as if they are actually "in school". Some teachers have even asked for an SPA uniform to be worn to promote an appropriate mindset. Set aside an area in the house, at a table or other space, that is quiet and free from distractions as much as possible for virtual learning.

Treat this as an opportunity to improve academic success

We understand that families are living hectic, unpredictable lives right now. Furthermore, we realize that unexpected scheduling changes or supervision needs may impact home learning at this time. Therefore, faculty members are approaching our virtual classes as a chance to continue your child(ren)'s education whenever possible, while offering opportunities to improve academic performance during the COVID-19 situation. If a child or family is unable to complete work or classes at a set time, our teachers are ready and willing to support you with providing accommodations to alleviate anxiety and ensure success.

(Continued on the next page)

Talk to your child whenever possible

While this time can be very fluid and potentially stressful, it is also an opportunity to talk with your child about their strengths, interests, and where they need support. You may find that you are getting a more close-up look at how your child is progressing and what they need at this point.

Stay connected!

Our teachers will be reaching out frequently, but do not feel obligated to respond to every message you receive. Additionally, please know that you can contact us at any time to discuss questions or concerns you have regarding virtual learning or other items of mention that you and your child have regarding school.



Student Work Drop-Off

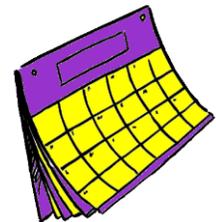
In an effort to carefully review, assess, and respond to the various learning needs of our students, we kindly ask that families organize and bundle assignments with their student's name and utilize one (1) of the following options:

Dropping off the work to school in a secured bundle (either a large paperclip or manila envelope) with their children's name written on all pages **on Thursday afternoons from 1PM - 4PM**. (**Note:** There will be a plastic bin on the uppermost step of the school to leave this work; the bin will be emptied consistently during this time.)

Work may be sent to the school via postal mail to St. Peter Academy (371 West Fourth Street, South Boston, MA 02127). Please put "Attn:" and write the name of your child's respective teacher on the envelope. (**Note:** Mail is being held at the local post office and is being retrieved frequently throughout the week.)

Calendar Changes

In an effort to accommodate busy families working remotely from home at this time, and to promote continued educational growth, we have decided to **continue online learning on Tuesday, April 21 through Friday, April 24, 2020** (originally intended to be Spring Recess). Students, faculty, and staff will be provided with a two-day break from online learning on Friday, April 10th (Good Friday) and Monday, April 20th (Patriot's Day). Additionally, we still anticipate **Friday, June 19, 2020 to be our final day of school** for Pre-Kindergarten through Grade 6.



Virtual "Coffee with the Principal" and Home-School Association Meetings

Please join Mr. Galligan for coffee on **Wednesday evening, April 22nd from 7 - 8PM**. An invite link for a Zoom session will be sent out to all parents prior to the evening. We hope that you can join us! Additionally, parents, guardians, grandparents, and other family members are invited to join us for a virtual HSA meeting on **Wednesday, April 29nd at 8PM** via a Zoom Conference. An invite link will be sent out to all families prior to the meeting. Please consider attending to discuss upcoming events that improve the educational experience of your child(ren).

Thank you, Maryann Crush!

The Principal, Faculty, and Staff of St. Peter Academy extend their gratitude to **Maryann Crush, President of the St. Peter Academy Governing Board**, for her work in helping to move our school from on-site to online learning! From ZOOM Conferences, to licenses for online learning platforms, we are so appreciative for the many countless hours she has devoted to our children and school!



Happy Birthday!

The happiest of birthdays is extended to the following faculty and staff who are celebrating very soon; thank you for all your contributions to our special community:

Miss Sayre – April 1st
Miss Rodriguez – April 4th
Mrs. Heseck – May 1st



ST PETER ACADEMY

Office of the Principal

Monthly P.I.E. Memo | "Partners in Education"



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1 April Fool's Day National Poetry Month Begins	2 Student work collection at school: 1PM – 4PM*	3 	4
5	6 	7	8 Passover Begins	9 Student work collection at school: 1PM – 4PM* Virtual Faculty Professional Development: 1-3PM	10 Good Friday NO ONLINE CLASSES	11
12 Easter Sunday	13 Virtual Board Meeting 5:30 PM	14	15 	16 Student work collection at school: 1PM – 4PM*	17 Crazy Hat Day! For online classes today, wear a crazy hat you have at home - or create your own!	18
19 Easter Sunday (Orthodox)	20 Patriot's Day NO ONLINE CLASSES	21	22 Virtual Coffee with the Principal 7PM – 8PM	23 Student work collection at school: 1PM – 4PM*	24 Progress Reports Distributed: Pre-K – Grade 6	25
(Formerly Spring Recess) Online classes <u>will be held</u> Tuesday-Friday this week.						
26	27 	28	29 Virtual Home-School Association Meeting - 8PM	30 Student work collection at school: 1PM – 4PM*		

***Student Work Collection - Every Thursday at school (1PM-4PM):** A collection bin will be placed outside. Please ensure work is bundled with student's name.

Work can also be mailed to school: St. Peter Academy, 371 West Fourth Street, South Boston, MA 02127 (Attn: Classroom Teacher's Name)

Any and all calendar events are subject to change at the discretion of the Principal. Parents and families will be notified through email or newsletters of any changes as necessary.