



Valley Stream Christian Academy

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Dear VSCA Families,

As we continue to navigate this new way of living, I hope that you are able to find joy, even in the smallest of things- a meal together, a puzzle, or even Tik Tok (okay, I STILL haven't really figured out exactly what this is, but it seems to be making a lot of people laugh!) My biggest update is one that we have been waiting for, for weeks. This morning, Governor Cuomo made the announcement that ALL schools in New York would remain closed for the remainder of the year. For most of us, this comes as no surprise. Putting procedures in place, including masks, the taking of temperatures, social distancing, etc., seemed like an impossible task to undertake before June. This will not change much in the way of our schedule, however, we will be making subtle changes in our curriculum to make sure that all grade levels are receiving the core of information in order to feel confident that they are ready for the next school year.

This brings me to our next topic-our parent surveys. The results from last week's survey only confirmed one of our biggest challenges and that is the amount of Zoom classes and assigned work with which our parents felt most comfortable. Some parents would like more Zoom classes, most did not. Some wanted it specifically in certain subject areas, others leaned towards different ones. As I have previously mentioned, EVERY family is grappling with their own struggles-financial, working from home, health, and unfortunately, even death. Our staff meets regularly to refine and experiment with different means by which to provide the best distance learning experience as possible. There is a famous quote, "You can please some of the people all the time, all of the people some of the time, but you cannot please all of the people all of the time." We ask for your understanding as we try our best to meet the needs of all our families.

I have one on going concern, and that is the mental welfare of not only our students, but also our parents. In the coming weeks we will be looking for ways to provide information and possibly Zoom meetings for our students where they can just "talk about their feelings." In the meantime, here is a [link](#) to some very informative strategies (currently located on our website).

One VERY important note: PLEASE try to have a daily schedule for your child. Research has proven that in situations such as these, it is imperative that we provide stability to our children. Since we know that this "life style" will be continuing for almost another 2 months, we owe it to our children to bring structure to their lives. It is understandable that we want to make their lives easier by not "harping on them" about when they wake and go to sleep, but in the long run, we do them a disservice. With today's announcement about ongoing distance learning, today is the perfect time to say, "Starting Monday, things will be different. We will be focusing on self-care and that requires schedules, school work times, meal times, and break times." Taking away technology at a specific hour each night will help your child to maintain a healthy schedule. This is not a punitive move. Many of us have addictions to technology-video games, texting, Instagram, etc. You are helping them stay healthy. Let's be honest, given our current circumstances, no child should have the need to tell their parent they need their device so they can finish an assignment due the next day. Okay-I am done preaching!

Two more quick announcements: Next week is Teacher Appreciation Week. If you have time, please send a quick email to your child's teacher(s). They are working hard and a word of encouragement goes a long way. Also, last week, I asked the students to make a picture or poster showing our appreciation to our health care workers, first responders, and essential workers. They were asked to then take a picture of it and send it to Mrs. Ayala at bayala@vscaschool.org. We will be making a compilation of them and sending them through Newsday and directly to these hard working individuals. We are extending the date in which to turn these in to Wednesday, May 6th. Let's show them how much we at VSCA appreciate all they are doing. Because of them, we can safely shelter at home and, if need be, receive quality health care while they put themselves in harm's way. Finally, let us remember to keep our focus on our wonderful Creator. We are always being refined; sometimes the fire is hotter than other times. But he is always shaping and molding us into a reflection of Him. He is doing a work in each one of us. Have Your way, Lord. Have Your way!

God Bless,
Leslie Fowley
Superintendent