



Calvary Academy

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Good Afternoon Calvary Academy Parents/Guardians, Students and Staff;

First of all, I pray that this email finds you and your family well. I want you to know that I personally pray for your family daily and I am asking that the Lord bless you, protect you, keep you and bring you HIS perfect peace. These certainly are challenging times but as a school we are working aggressively and doing all we can to support you and your children as they navigate this temporary phase of online learning. Please feel free to reach out to me with any specific prayer needs or call me directly and I will be happy to pray with you.

In an attempt to keep the lines of communication open, all public, private and parochial schools for all ages are closed in New Jersey until further notice. Calvary is estimating our new return date to be Monday **April 20th** and will update families as we know more. We will be closed for Easter Break (April 10-19). This means that there will be **no online work assigned** from 4/10 – 4/19. Also, please note that in accordance with an announcement from the Governor, Calvary will not be proceeding with standardized testing this year. Field trips, sports and other activities that are currently scheduled to take place the week of April 20th (like the Book Fair and Grandparent's Day) will need to be reevaluated for cancellation or postponement as we get closer to that time.

As a school we are revamping the way that we do online courses for **Middle School and Upper School** to provide a more manageable approach starting Monday, March 30th. We are trying to limit screen time to less than 2 ½ hours per day and provide high quality, live learning lessons from 9-12.

This week, we began remote learning using our current daily school schedule and after careful consideration, have decided to create a new remote learning model that offers reduced screen time for our students while still maintaining an engaging educational environment that includes a combination of core subjects, gym, art, and electives. Our goal is to continue to offer personalized instruction and continuity, while balancing the needs of families during an extremely critical time.

Starting on Monday 3/30/20, our school day for every middle and high school student will begin at 8:45 with devotions, and classes will promptly begin at 9:00 am to 11: 50 am. Class schedules by grade will be distributed to each family and students so that you have a clear indication of the daily schedule for the week (attached to this email.) Please note that each class does not meet every day and that certain classes will meet either 3, 2, or 1 time per week to accommodate the new scheduling format.

Also, the technological platforms that will be utilized are Microsoft Teams, One Note, and FACTS Family Portal (previously known as RenWeb.) Our high school students are thoroughly

familiar with these platforms and have been utilizing them regularly. We understand that these platforms are new to many of our middle schoolers, and teachers will continue to work with students to increase their confidence. To help families we have also created a new class – Microsoft 101 that will be led by Mrs. Silverstein. This class will be part of the 6th-8th grade schedule and will assist students with their remote learning needs.

Overview of Classes

- 6th-8th Grades classes will include: Math, LA, Science, Social Studies, Bible, Gym, Art, Spanish (6th) and Computers for Remote Learning
- 9th -10th Grade classes will include: Math, Language Arts, Science (Biology or Chemistry), History (World or/US 1) Art/Health, Spanish (1 or 2), Bible, Gym, and Elective
- 11th-12th Grade classes will include: Math, Language Arts, Science (Environmental or Physics), US History 2 (11th Grade), Personal Finance (12th Grade) Bible, Art/Health, Gym and 2 Electives.

Technology (All platforms can be accessed via phone or computer)

- **Microsoft Teams**- Teams is used as a virtual classroom space, and Team classes or channels have been created for each class that your child attends. Students are to report to their Team Class and join a live class, access pre-recorded instructions, view class posts, etc. They can also communicate with teachers via private chats and classroom chats that are viewable by the class.
- **One Note**-This is virtual Notebook and teachers will direct students to the specific pages that they should be accessing. Class notes, daily work, power points, instructional materials, and homework is posted here. Teachers will set up a specific Remote Learning Section, labeled by date, to direct students to correct pages.
- **FACTS Family Portal** -Parents and students can access the Family Portal for homework posting, monitor progress, see missing work, and access current grades.

Daily Routine (M-F)

8:45-8:55 Devotions- Report to Teams: Upper School Devotions

9:00-9:50 1st Period Class- Report to Teams (Scheduled class)

10:00-10:50 2nd Period Class- Report to Teams (Scheduled class)

11:00-11:50 3rd Period Class- Report to Teams (Scheduled class)

11:50 Dismissal

Teachers will be available for follow up questions via Teams private and classroom chats. Please see posted Office Hours on Teams class page.

Daily Student Expectations

- Each day at 8:45 am, all students grades 6th-12 are expected to begin the day with Devotions by reporting to: Teams-Upper School Devotions
- Monday-Friday: After Devotions, all students must report to their Teams class page for class instructions starting at 9am. Attendance will be recorded for each class, and core subjects will include regular live class instruction.
- Teachers will reserve time at the end of class time each day for students to begin homework assignments, ask questions, or to get additional help.
- Middle School students will complete classwork inside of their class times- additional homework will not be assigned at this time. All classwork must be completed.
- For High School Students-Classroom policy for grading, tests/quizzes, homework, and participation will follow school guidelines and class syllabi
- Teacher will continue to utilize a variety of methods for assessment
- All High School homework and Middle School Classwork will be posted in Family Portal by 12: 30pm the day it is assigned.
- Parents will be notified of student absences.
- All students must continue to comply with Calvary's Code of Conduct. Students will be held accountable to maintain proper computer etiquette during class time, and for behavioral choices that are disrespectful to their class peers and their teachers. Class disruptions due to outbursts, off-line messaging, chatting, inappropriate language, gaming, sleeping, or screen hijacking will not be tolerated.

Special Family Circumstances

• We are living in an unprecedented time in history, and there may be family and student needs that warrant special consideration. To reduce your stress in reaching out to multiple teachers, please feel free to directly contact myself or one of our Lead Teachers through phone or email.

- Mrs. Cruz (scruz@calvaryacademy.org) / Office: 732-363-3633
- Middle School: Mrs. Venezia (evenezia@calvaryacademy.org)
- High School: Mrs. Greenwood (sgreenwood@calvaryacademy.org)

Thank you all for your understanding and patience during this time of unusual circumstances; you all are doing an excellent job with your schooling and we certainly miss you all. As always, your teachers are available to answer any questions you may have regarding any of your classes.

Our prayers are with each and every one of you!

Blessings,

Stephanie Cruz