



**St. John's Lutheran School News
March 20, 2020**

Families,

At St. John's we always depend on a concurrent model of education. This simply means that we have a strong partnership between school and home in the best interests of student learning. We believe this is the most effective version of school as it relies on parent-teacher partnership each and every day. You may have noticed recently that the location of school has changed...to your dining room (If you haven't noticed, we need to have an entirely different conversation!). At home, while SJLS is providing the content, practice, assessment, schedules, etc., we need your continued partnership to provide encouragement, a routine, and a learning space. This is not "homeschool" – that has a very specific connotation (please do not read any judgment in that statement). In our current uncharted situation, this is "school at home," which means, it still requires professional crafting, guidance, student support, and parent-teacher partnership.

A "best practice" is a process or task that works well for a given situation. Below are a few simple best practices from St. John's, but I'd love for you as a community to start sharing your "best practices" on social media. You never know what idea might bless another family, and I love a good hashtag . . . **#SJLSbestpractices #SJLSstrongertogether.**

Best practices for our current situation:

1. Set and maintain a routine. Get up at a reasonable time, get dressed, have breakfast, then "go to school." School is a shortened day and there shouldn't be much homework – has that word lost all meaning?
2. Establish a learning space for kids to work and to be organized. This can be a fort they make, under the dining room table, or at the dining room table. My only suggestion is that they have a designated space in the house to "go to school."
3. Can't express this one enough: Do not, for any reason, have playdates, student work groups, or gatherings of any size.
4. Communication! Our team is available. Additionally, our teachers will be reaching out to you each week.

Just for Clarity: Please expect the next two weeks to be "regular school weeks" meaning Monday-Friday and about 4 or 5 hours depending on the grade level. Until we return, we no longer have minimum days, early outs, or in-service days.

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our affliction, **so that we may be able to comfort those who are in any affliction, with the comfort with which we ourselves are comforted by God.** 2 Corinthians 1:3-4

We are blessed! Sometimes it's difficult to see the blessings through the challenges but look around, you have wonderful children, an army of SJLS faculty behind you, and an awesome and supportive parent network.