



St. Denis – St. Columba School

A Holy Ground of Loving and Learning

Family Newsletter



Weeks of December 14-18, 2020

REMINDER! Cohort Schedule Change Friday, Dec 18th

Remember, next **Friday, December 18th** has been switched to a **GOLD DAY**. We are sorry for any inconvenience this change may cause. The switch is temporary and does not impact any other Fridays already scheduled.

Hot Lunch Program Blue Tickets Expire Soon!

Please use up your old blue lunch tickets before Christmas break. Effective 01/04/21, only newly purchased orange lunch tickets will be accepted. Thank you.

No Bus Transportation for Arlington Students: December 21st -23rd

Bus transportation will **not** be available to students who live in the Arlington Central School District from Monday, December 21st – Wednesday, December 23rd.

NEW! Schedule Change: Wednesday, December 23rd

Wednesday, December 23rd is now a half day of school! Students will be dismissed for Christmas Break beginning at 11:40 a.m. There will be a lot of car riders this day, so be sure to have a BIG sign in your car window with your child(ren)'s name(s) to expedite the dismissal process.

Dress for the Weather!

Fresh air and exercise are critical to our students' well-being, especially during the current Covid pandemic. Students go outside for fresh air breaks, physical education and recess whenever possible except during inclement weather. Please be sure that your child has a warm coat, hat, gloves, etc. as appropriate to keep them warm. Also be sure to label your child's clothing as the Lost and Found tends to fill up during the winter months with unlabeled clothing. Girls may wear tights, heavy knee high socks and warm shorts under their skirts/jumpers to keep warm.



Kindergarten Paperwork for the 2021-22 School Year

Thank you for all of the sibling applications for the 2020-21 Kindergarten Class! The available seats in next year's class filled in record time and only a couple of spaces remain. In order to determine who we can admit from our waiting list we are asking our SDSC families to complete their registration packets as soon as possible. This enables us to formally accept your child into the class and allocate the space through the ADNY admission portal. Formal acceptance into the class helps SDSC avoid any potential enrollment issues with your child. **Please be sure to complete the registration packet as soon as possible, but no later than February 1, 2021.** Please note that the Office of Tuition Management **will not** consider any applications for financial aid until the registration paperwork is submitted. Paperwork may be sent with an older sibling to Mr. Krebs' attention, scanned to him at rtkrebs@stcolumba.net, dropped off in person or faxed to 845-226-8470. Any questions, please email or call him at 845-227-7777.



Thank You for Your Service!

We would like to extend our heartfelt gratitude to Mrs. Lisa Marie Schulhoff (9 years!) and Mrs. Louise DiPalermo (9* years!) for their service and leadership on the SDSC Outreach Committee. Under their guidance, the SDSC Community has assisted thousands of needy people in our local community over the years. Their sons will graduate from SDSC next Spring so they will depart our Outreach Committee. Thank you for lending us your time and talent!

* * * * *

To Everything there is a Season and a Time for Every Purpose under Heaven

Let us continue to keep in our prayers the many among us who are sick and suffering.

A TIME TO HEAL: Mrs. Boulton, Mrs. Dillon, Mrs. Senno, Tonjia Minotti (Mother of Robbie, Grade 4), Christian Dill (Grand-nephew of Sr. Cherree), Jim Keenan (Brother of Mrs. Kish), Mary Krebs (niece of Mr. Krebs) and for the many who are sick and suffering in mind, body or spirit in this year.

How can I help my elementary child stay focused during online learning?

PARENT TIP SHEET

Learning online isn't always easy. If you're struggling to help your child, you are not alone! Here are a few tips to help.

Tip 1: Set up an organized workspace.

Some classroom desks are just 18 inches x 24 inches. Your child's workspace doesn't need to be big or fancy. Keep it simple!



Say This

- "Let's create a workspace to help you stay focused while you learn online."
- "How can we make your workspace more organized than it is now?"



Do This

- Encourage your child to help set up the new workspace. If he helps, he may feel more invested in his workspace.
- Small kitchen table? No problem! Section off the workspace using binders, cardboard, cereal boxes, or even house plants.



Check This

- Watch your child participate in an online class. Does this new workspace help him stay focused?
- If your child has trouble sitting or working at a table for hours, let him change locations or stand while working.

If your child gets easily distracted or frustrated, use a timer to break learning into smaller chunks. When he needs a brain break, allow him to turn off his screen for a minute or two.

Tip 2: Minimize distractions.

Just like at school, your child may be distracted while learning online. Keeping your child focused can be an easy fix!



Say This

- "What helps you focus when you are learning online?"
- "Does anything distract you when you are learning online?"

Reduce distractions from classmates by setting the screen so that your child can only see the teacher and what is being shared.



Do This

- Once you determine what your child finds distracting, create a checklist of things to do before your child logs in (e.g., use the bathroom, turn off TV, put phone away).
- Let your child use headphones to help him focus on class instruction instead of noisy distractions.



Check This

- Ask your child's teacher to send you an email or text after class to let you know if your child had trouble focusing during online instruction.
- Based on what the teacher says, think of ways to limit future distractions.

Tip 3: Develop student-teacher relationships.

Students who have a positive relationship with their teacher are often more engaged in class. Positive news alert: It is possible for your child to build a relationship with his teacher even while learning online!



Say This

- "Let's set up a time for you to chat with your new teacher."
- "I bet she would love to hear about _____ (e.g., your new book, what you did this weekend)."



Do This

- Help your child set up a short video chat with his teacher, even for 5 or 10 minutes. How often you do this will depend on your child's needs and the teacher's availability.
- Encourage your child to share his interests, show off his pets, and have a fun, relaxed conversation with his teacher.



Check This

- Ask your child questions about his chat with the teacher. Does he seem more interested after a short video chat?
- Set up consistent times (weekly, monthly) for your child to check in with his teacher.

References

1. Webster, K. (2020). *Back to (virtual) school tips—for parents*. <https://www.uml.edu/news/stories/2020/education-parent-tips.aspx>
1. Branstetter, R. (2020). *How parents can support children with special needs during distance learning*. https://greatergood.berkeley.edu/article/item/how_parents_can_support_children_with_special_needs_during_distance_learning
2. Carling, L. (2020). *8 tips to help your child focus and stay engaged during distance learning*. <https://education.jhu.edu/2020/04/8tipsforfocus/>
3. Zaiets, K., & Loehrke, J. (2020). *These online learning tips will help parents prepare for a successful school year, even if it is virtual*. <https://www.usatoday.com/in-depth/news/2020/08/06/covid-19-tips-parents-successful-online-learning-virtual-classes-zoom/3303918001/>