



# St. Denis – St. Columba School

A Holy Ground of Loving and Learning

## Family Newsletter



Shine Like the Stars

Weeks of December 7-11, 2020

### **IMPORTANT! Cohort Schedule Change Friday, Dec 11<sup>th</sup> and Dec 18<sup>th</sup>**

Please note that this **Friday, December 11<sup>th</sup> has been switched to a GREEN DAY.** Next **Friday, December 18<sup>th</sup> has been switched to a GOLD DAY.** We will be filming our virtual Christmas Pageant and Nativity to share with our families and friends and Mr. Leguizamon needs to see both hybrid groups of students this week. 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.

### **NEW Student Applications for the 2021-22 School Year – ACT NOW!**



## New Student Registration

Admissions and Financial Assistance Applications for **ALL incoming Kindergartners and NEW Students** has opened. If you have a child eligible to enter Kindergarten next year, NOW is the time to submit an application for admission. We began accepting applications for next year's class on Tuesday, and the class is just about full! If we continue to receive applications at this current pace, we will reach capacity very quickly and begin the waitlist process much sooner than expected. Siblings of currently enrolled

students receive priority placement in the class, but submitting an early application is essential so that we can allocate a place for them. Submit an application by going to "Apply Now" on the SDSC website. Also, we are accepting applications for NEW students in all other grades. Currently enrolled families who refer a new family who enrolls at SDSC can earn a \$250 tuition credit!

### **2020-2021 Room Parent Volunteers – THANK YOU!**



Thank you to all who volunteered to be Room Parents for this most unique school year! Even though many traditional activities coordinated by room parents are currently not permitted, our Room Parents will work with the teachers to find new ways to bring a little extra joy to our students in their classrooms during these difficult times! We are so excited to see so many parents who are new to SDSC jump right into our community of volunteers by signing up to be Room Parents! Welcome!

### **Classroom Christmas Celebrations**

We WILL be having Christmas celebrations for both cohorts this year! As soon as we determine the safety "rules" for having these parties your Class Parents and/or teachers will communicate their plans to you. The Class Parents may be reaching out for donations for the parties and possibly teacher gifts. Please consider assisting them in bringing Christmas cheer to our students and teachers!

### **SDSC Advent Outreach Project – THANK YOU**

Thank you so much to all of our families who so generously donated to assist the needy children in our community. Their situations have often been made more difficult because of the pandemic. With your help we were able to deliver **over 175 gift cards** to the Center for the Prevention of Child Abuse and CASA at MHA of Dutchess County to purchase gifts for the children. The SDSC Outreach Committee and these agencies are deeply grateful to you and your children for giving of yourselves so others may know the Joy of Christmas.



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**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, Tonja Minotti (*Mother of Robbie, Grade 4*), Christian Dill (*Grand-nephew of Sr. Cherree*) Fr. Connolly's Mom, Mary Krebs (*niece of Mr. Krebs*) and for the many who are sick and suffering in mind, body or spirit in this year.

# My child says she doesn't like online learning. How can I help?

## PARENT TIP SHEET

For many children, school looks different this year. Your child may be learning online part time or full time. This might make it harder to adjust to a new grade, new teacher, or new classmates. It's easy to understand why your child might feel frustrated. Here are a few tips to help.

### Tip 1: Ask your child why she doesn't like online learning.

Be positive and realistic. You can't change her situation, but you can encourage her to make the best of it.



#### Say This

- "What is it that you don't like about online learning?"
- "What can I do to help make online learning better for you?"



#### Do This

- Talk to your child's teachers or other parents for ideas.
- Let your child know what you expect her to do. Providing structure and a consistent routine can have a positive impact on your child's mood and overall attitude toward learning online.



#### Check This

- Check in with your child often. Remember that adjusting to online learning takes time and patience.
- Reassure your child through the ups and downs; remind her that it's okay when some things don't work out right away.

Help your child set up a virtual background. This is a great way to make the learning environment more personal.

### Tip 2: Encourage your child to connect with friends.

Typically, children make and maintain friendships in school or at afterschool activities. When learning online, they may miss seeing their friends, so it's important to help them stay connected.



#### Say This

- "Let's set up a time for you to chat with your friends. I bet you miss them!"
- "Would you like to have an online game night with your friends?"

Tic-tac-toe, guess who?, and trivia are all fun games your child can play with friends during video chats.



### Do This

- Help your child brainstorm topics she wants to talk about, or questions she would like to ask her friends.
- Find a game for her to play with friends online. Games are a terrific way to keep the conversation fun and engaging for everyone.



### Check This

- After a few minutes, check with your child to make sure everything is going well.
- Smiles and laughter are signs that your child is having fun and connecting with her friends.

## Tip 3: Help your child stay organized.

Online learning schedules can include virtual instruction, independent learning, and teacher office hours. This can be overwhelming for your child.



### Say This

- "Let's make a schedule of what you need to do (each day, each week)."
- "You can write down your assignments in a planner or on a to-do list."



### Do This

- Help your child create a schedule. This might be a daily or weekly schedule, depending on your child's age.
- Show your child how to create a to-do list to complete assignments on time.



### Check This

- Check your child's schedule frequently.
- Point out ways she can improve her organization (e.g., don't forget to write down weekly quizzes, schedule time to do homework).

## References

1. Webster, K. (2020). *Back to (virtual) school tips—for parents*. <https://www.uml.edu/news/stories/2020/education-parent-tips.aspx>
2. 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](https://greatergood.berkeley.edu/article/item/how_parents_can_support_children_with_special_needs_during_distance_learning)
3. Greenway, K. H. (2020). *My kids are allergic to video chats*. <https://www.nytimes.com/2020/05/14/parenting/coronavirus-kids-video-call-friends.html>