



St. Thomas Aquinas High School and Middle School

Distance Learning Plans

Our focus at St. Thomas Aquinas is to empower every student to realize their own personal success. Education has faced a number of unique challenges over the last few years. One of those challenges has been finding ways to best prepare students for learning at home. While we continue to do all that we can to assure our preferred method of education, in-person learning; during these unprecedented times, we felt it was necessary to be proactive and communicate with families our distance learning plans. We ask families to review these plans, to discuss with your student(s) the importance of bringing home their personal Chromebook each day, and contact us with any questions.

Aquinas has adopted 1:1 technology as we strive to provide 21st century learning opportunities to all students. Having technology as a tool for learning creates flexibility in instruction as students can access their classes from anywhere there is internet access.

There will be times when STA announces a distance learning day, from home, in lieu of an unscheduled day off for weather, widespread sickness, or other special circumstances. These days will be instructed asynchronously (see below). There may be times when distance learning needs to be longer than a few days. In those situations, families will be instructed when distance learning will transition to synchronous learning (see below).

Common Questions

Communication- Anytime we have unscheduled days off, asynchronous or synchronous, families will receive a phone call and an email communication. During inclement weather, school closings are also announced by local media channels, however, families can always expect a call and email from the administration. Those announcements will indicate whether that learning day is synchronous or asynchronous.

Extracurricular Activities- All extracurricular activities on distance learning days should NOT be assumed to be canceled, that could vary based upon each team's unique circumstances. Coaches, moderators, and teachers of activities will communicate with their respective groups as to the status of practices, games, and events. During distance learning days, there is no school day bus transportation. Information on transportation to and from extracurricular activities will be provided by each coach or moderator of that student organization.

College Credit Plus- Students who are taking College Credit Plus (CCP) courses should NOT assume their college classes are canceled and should follow the instructions of the college or university they are attending.

Attendance- Students on asynchronous days will be counted as present as long as they have engaged in the activity for each of their classes. For example, if a student is required to write a discussion post for one of their activities, attendance will be considered present for that class as long as an activity or communication with a teacher has been done during the hours of 7:45am-6:00pm. For synchronous days, students must be logged in and stay logged in until the end of class just as if it was a normal in person day. If a student is sick or needs to be excused from either a synchronous or asynchronous day, the same procedures must be followed as if it was a normal school day. Families should call the school to report the absence at 330.875.1631.

Asynchronous Distance Learning Days

Asynchronous learning days are intended for unforeseen and unscheduled days off and are short-term distance learning days. Students will not need to be in a virtual classroom with their classmates and teachers at set times on these days. All students can complete their class work at their own pace after checking Google Classroom at 8:00 am.

- All students must access assignments through Google Classroom.
- Teachers will have assignments for the day posted by 7:45AM.
- All students should access their Google Classrooms by 8:00AM to make sure they understand their responsibilities for the day and plan accordingly if they need to virtually visit a teacher.
- All assignments will be due by 6:00PM on the day it is assigned unless otherwise directed by the teacher.

- Each teacher will have a designated 'office hour' that students may log in and meet virtually with their teacher through Google Meets or Zoom. The link to the meetings will be posted on Google Classroom.
 - Students should access their teachers during the office hours if they have questions about the assignment for the day or need to communicate with the teacher with immediate feedback.
- Teachers will be accessible by email between 7:45AM-3:30PM.
- Students can request a virtual meeting with their teacher outside of the posted office hours below.
- Teacher Office Hours:

SUBJECT	OFFICE HOUR
Mathematics	8:30AM-9:30AM
Social Studies	9:00AM-10:00AM
English	9:30AM-10:30AM
Religion	10:00AM-11:00AM
Science	10:30AM-11:30AM
Foreign Language/Electives- Art, Music, Health, Etc.	11:00AM-12:00PM

Synchronous Distance Learning Days

Synchronous learning days are intended for planned distance learning days. On these days, students are expected to be in their virtual classrooms with their classmates and teachers at set times during the normal daily school times.

- Students will access each class through the provided Zoom or Google Meets link on Google Classroom.
- Attendance will be taken in each class as if it was a normal school day.
- Students do not need to log in for their study halls.
- If a student is experiencing any internet troubles, they need to call the school and report the issue immediately. If possible, students should send emails to their teachers when issues arise with Zoom or Google Meets.

- Each class will follow the normal daily schedule:

Period	Time
1	7:45-8:31
2	8:34-9:16
3	9:19-10:01
4	10:04-10:46
5a	10:49-11:11
5b	11:14-11:36
6a	11:39-12:01
6b	12:04-12:26
7	12:29-1:11
8	1:14-2:00

- If we must move to synchronous learning for multiple days, we will offer a drop-in date for students to pick-up their textbooks or other supplies. However, students are reminded to take their Chromebooks home each day.
- In the event of synchronous learning, communication will be sent to families regarding the school lunch program.

We appreciate your understanding and cooperation as we do our best to keep our students and staff healthy and safe, provide the best learning environment possible, and guide our students to achieve success. Contact the school if your family has any questions, by phone at 330.875.1631 or by email at stahigh@youngstowndiocese.org.

Mr. Neary
Principal

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