

## Distance Learning Update – 11/24/20

As you may have suspected, due to the current case counts and COVID situation in our county and district area, the request to go back into a form of in-person learning December 3<sup>rd</sup> has not been approved. You should have received a message last night from Superintendent Pat Westby regarding the recommendation that we continue distance learning through Friday, January 15. Other surrounding schools that have not already moved into full distance learning are being asked to move into this same BAND by November 30. While we realize this is not the news that any of us wanted to hear, we see the need to support this decision as it ensures the health and safety of our children, families, staff and community.

During this time, we will continue assessing the situation to determine whether data indicates that date can be moved in any way. Please know that we will continue following the guidance and recommendations of our local CentraCare health experts, Diocese leaders, the Stearns County Health Department and MDH. We will also continue working in partnership with the public school.

Anytime we are in BANDS 1-4, we have more leeway to move between BANDS and possibly have our schools open to some extent. However, once we move into BAND 5, we are instructed to follow the recommendations from the Diocese, the Stearns County Health Department and MDH to move into a less-restrictive BAND.

Please be assured that when making a decision to move into a different BAND, we rely on data from many different areas including, but not limited to:

- **Current case county rates** – this data provides a 14-day case rate for Stearns county – it includes the number of confirmed cases per 10,000 people for our county alone
- **Local and district county rates** – this data is a current compilation of confirmed cases within the district area zip codes
- **Quarantined Individuals** - Number of teachers, students, staff and families within each building who are currently in quarantine because they have tested positive or have been in close contact with someone who has tested positive.
- **Consultation and recommendations** from local health experts (CentraCare Health System), the Incident Command Team at the public school, the Diocese, the Stearns County Health Department and the Minnesota Department of Health

We realize there may be frustrations that we cannot have in-person learning when we hear of other districts being in-person. When we first moved into distance learning, our decision was based on each of the above with an emphasis on a shortage in staff members at both of our schools, as well as a high number of students and staff in quarantine. At this time, we feel that being in distance learning will be better off for us short-term and allow us to ensure a return to in-person learning is sustainable. We ask you to continue washing your hands regularly, practice social distancing, wear masks when in public spaces and avoid large group gatherings so that we can return as soon as possible.

As always, teachers will continue to monitor and adjust their distance learning methods. Please understand there is no “one size fits all” teaching method. We continue to work on meeting the situations and needs of each student and family. If you feel adjustments need to be made, please do not hesitate to reach out to the teacher to discuss alternative options. We continue to hold you all in our thoughts and prayers. Please be safe and well!

*(please review reverse side as well)*

## **School and School-Related Meetings**

The diocese has asked that we suspend all in-person meetings through at least December 31<sup>st</sup> - all meetings and gatherings should be held virtually.

## **Library Books**

Due to circumstances beyond our control, we are unable to provide students with library books at this time. We hope to have some ready for you for the next pickup on Tuesday, December 8<sup>th</sup>. Please watch Remind notices for information on how to request books.

## **Scrip Orders**

Upcoming Scrip orders will be placed as follows:

- Every Monday until December 14<sup>th</sup>
- January 4
- January 18

If you would like to place an order for Scrip, you can drop off an order form at school, mail an order form to the school, or order through the "Raise Right" app. Below is some additional information regarding some upcoming "bonuses" for using Scrip.

This holiday season, do all your gift card shopping in one convenient place. Plus, take advantage of these special opportunities to raise more funds for our school:

### **• Free shipping on ship to home orders in our RaiseRight™ mobile app: Nov 28 – Dec 4**

- Must be shipped using Standard Mail (USPS).
- Brands are labeled "Ship to Home Eligible." Choose from **250+ brands and counting**.
- You must pay with a bank account or a credit card.
- It's a great option for sending holiday gifts to friends and family. Also, invite loved ones to do their holiday shopping with gift cards to grow your impact.

### **• Surprise mystery bonuses: Nov 28 – Dec 11**

- Check the Discover page in our mobile app every day to reveal surprise bonuses that disappear in 24 hours.
- Applies to all card types.
- Bonuses will also be available on ShopWithScrip.com and MyScripWallet.com.

### **• 2-week bonuses: Nov 28 – Dec 11**

- Select brands are offering bonuses for 2 whole weeks.
- Applies to all card types.
- Bonuses will be available in the app, and on ShopWithScrip.com and MyScripWallet.com.