



February 16, 2021

Dear St. Mary's Families,

I hope your family is staying safe and warm during these snowy and bitterly cold days. I wanted to reach out with a few updates to families while we are still away from school due to weather and road conditions. I pray that if your family is experiencing power blackouts that they are only temporary.

- Many members of our St. Mary's school community are currently without power or will be without power due to rolling blackouts in the area. This will affect many things, including Wi-Fi access. Teachers will continue to load instruction and lessons into their Google Classrooms each day we are learning virtually, but please be patient if your child's work is a bit delayed. Thank you.
- We have opened Accelerated Reader for at-home use during this time of virtual learning. This is a good time for your 1st – 5th grade child to do some quiet reading and keep up to date with his or her quarterly AR goals. [Please remember that you MUST use the link provided below to access St. Mary's AR site, you cannot Google AR and gain access to the correct site any other way than using the correct link.](#) If you are asked for a site ID, St. Mary's Site ID is SMGS-08QL. The link for St. Mary's students is:

<https://global-zone08.renaissance-go.com/welcomeportal/194531>

Please remember that your child's User ID and Password for AR are case sensitive, and it is possible to be temporarily locked out with several failed attempts with logging in. If your child used the AR site last spring during 4th quarter at-home learning, your computer may still recognize the site in your browser. Your child's classroom teacher will be able to help you with user ID and password information, please reach out to her if you need any help. If you get an "OOPS!" from AR when you are trying to log in, please click the "Continue to the Welcome Page" and you will be directed the log in page.

- Although there is no substitution for the classroom experience I am thankful that St. Mary's has the virtual option of Google Classroom when weather or other circumstances prohibit in-class learning. [If you have an elementary student, please realize that the taped instruction and downloaded assignments in your child's Google Classroom are REQUIRED and your child needs to complete the assignments for a grade.](#) Specials classes (Spanish, PE, Music, Technology, Art, etc.) may post activities to serve as enrichment during virtual learning, but classroom teachers are posting REQUIRED work that needs to be completed and submitted by your student. Early Childhood teachers (Early Learners, Preschool, and Pre-K) have gone to great care to create instruction and activities for each of their classes to view and complete as well, but these assignments are not graded like elementary work. If you have not visited your child's Google Classroom please do so. If you need your child's password or any helpful hints, please contact your child's classroom teacher. Your child's teacher will be loading classwork each morning we are not in school for you to access by 10:00 a.m.

As always, please contact me with any questions you may have. Our business offices will be closed until we return to on-campus learning, but I will help you in any way that I am able.

God bless and take care,

Joanne Lown

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