



SAINT MARY'S COLLEGE HIGH SCHOOL
PERALTA PARK • 1294 ALBINA AVENUE • BERKELEY • CALIFORNIA 94706-2599
TELEPHONE (510) 526-9242 • FAX (510) 559-6277 • WWW.SAINTEMARYSCHS.ORG

March 18, 2020

Dear Students & Parents,

I apologize for the late hour this is being sent. It's been an unusual week.

We appreciate your patience as we figure out this new normal. We have spent a lot of time this week crafting a schedule (see at bottom) that is structured enough to meet students' academic needs while being flexible enough to fit the demands of students' (and parents') personal lives.

Below and attached please find our distance learning schedule for the next several weeks. Please study it. It has been developed with several key points in mind, based on best practices and our entire curriculum. First, **we are limiting students to less than two hours of required screen time per day**. In doing so, we expect our students to exhibit individual responsibility in regard to their study and homework. In other words, if you don't discipline yourself, expect additional, unnecessary struggle. Individual teachers will contact you in the next few days regarding specific requirements of each course.

Features, purposes, & parameters of Saint Mary's Distance Learning Schedule

- The time frame in which student must be online on Zoom is from 9:00 am to 11:50 am each day.
- A-Block is set for 9:00-9:55 daily. This will be a critically important time for students to receive additional help *for their study and work from the previous day*. Teachers will be available online for the entirety of A-block.
- The 10:00 am to 11:50 am time period is uninterrupted class time. *Students must go online before the start of class*.
- Classes will meet on alternating days for thirty-minutes per class.
- Students & counselors will set appointments at 8:00-9:00 am and 12:30-1:00 pm every day.
- Spring sports coaches will meet with their athletes every other day from 12:30 pm -1:00 pm.
- For non-athletes, physical fitness is part of wellness, and this period will be used to provide students with guidance to get appropriate exercise for mental health.
- SEL/Wellness meets on alternating days. Its initial purpose is for students to check in with their teachers and inform them if they may be struggling emotionally or academically.
- Clubs will meet daily from 1:00 to 1:20 pm. We will coordinate which clubs will meet and when.
- Intramurals (in the form of e-sports) will be offered on Thursdays at lunch. Details TBD.
- **The 1:30 to 3:30 pm daily time period is designed for students to study on their own initiative**. Teachers are NOT available during that time or afterwards. That is what A-Block is for.

Tomorrow we will send an additional email as a resource guide for thriving in this new schedule.

Pete Imperial
Principal