

Dear Parent or Guardian,

I want to take this opportunity to share information regarding our first eLearning Day for this school year. As was briefly mentioned two weeks ago in our Newsletter, classes will not be in session on Monday, October 29th. This will allow our teachers to attend a professional development day in Indianapolis that is being sponsored by the Indiana Non-Public Educators Conference. I have heard from a few parents that this day was not on the school calendar that was sent out last spring. This is correct, and I sincerely apologize for the miscommunication and inconvenience. We have had it scheduled on our official calendar which is on our website. And although we are giving several weeks' advance notice, it may still be inconvenient for some of our parents. The past two weeks we examined several alternatives so that our teaching and administrative staff can attend this day long conference. After consultation, the decision was made that an eLearning option is still the best for our school.

Let me explain what an eLearning day is and what our expectations are for our students when we have an eLearning day. First, **eLearning** days have been approved by the State to be used as a substitute for students attending class. Sacred Heart Catholic has met all of the requirements of the State to have eLearning days this school year. eLearning is a great option when school needs to be cancelled due to weather and also when teachers need the day for professional development. eLearning **does not** mean the student will be on a digital device for the 7 hours of school. eLearning **does mean** a student will be giving content to cover which goes along with what they would be covering if they were in a traditional class setting on the particular day. The amount of time a student will need to complete the work assigned on an eLearning day depends on several factors such as the grade level of the child. Although there will be assignments in every subject, it will not take the length of the school day to complete. It is similar to when a child is absent and has the work from that day sent home to do.

As mentioned, our first eLearning day will be Monday, October 29th when our teachers go to the INPEC (Indiana Non-Public Educators Conference) "Imagine, Inspire, and Innovate". We will not have classes on this day. It is important for teachers to continue their education, so we can continue to provide high quality education for our students/your children. With this being a planned eLearning day, the teachers will be talking with and/or giving the students their assignments by the Friday before the actual eLearning day, Oct. 26th. We encourage students to complete the assignments by Tuesday, October 30th. Although we encourage students to complete all assignments in one day, we understand there may be circumstances that do not allow this. e-Learning assignments will be given two days for completion unless otherwise stated by the teacher.

Our next scheduled eLearning day is Friday, February 15th for a teacher in-service day. We will be sending home more information and direction for our first eLearning day in the upcoming weeks, we will also discuss our eLearning days on Tuesday at our PSTS meeting. For now, remember eLearning is new to all of us, let's relax and give it a chance. Sacred Heart Cardinals are ready for the challenge!

Thank you for your continued support.

Frank Barlag