

STATUS UPDATE ON E-LEARNING, APRIL 9, 2020: Good news for 4th & 5th Graders!

Dear Parents of 4th & 5th Grade Crusaders,

I hope your Thursday has been a good one, and you and your family are safe and well! We continue to pray for each one of our children and families as we navigate the new measures that have been implemented considering COVID-19. How we miss interacting with you daily! We love our children and families and the community that we have so much.

I am reaching out to our 4th and 5th grade families to let you know that I have been reviewing responses and comments I have received from the parent survey that I sent to all parents in an email, along with our TSCA E-Learning Feedback Survey for secondary students, which went out last Friday. These results have been informative regarding aspects of the program that are working well and challenges that need to be resolved. The individual comments have been of greatest benefit to me, as they led to further conversations, and those conversations have resulted in a change that I believe will serve our 4th - 5th graders and their families much better in their e-learning program.

This morning, my administrative team met for two hours to discuss our e-learning platforms and the issues parents raised regarding how Google Classroom has been working for them. During this meeting, it became evident that the Google Classroom platform was more difficult to navigate for 4th and 5th grade students, along with the layout for the daily activities. The magnitude of the individual classrooms that must be accessed definitely got our attention. So, we determined that an immediate change was in order.

I immediately worked to convene a meeting with Mrs. Garcia and Ms. Gaston for 3:45pm today. We had a wonderful discussion about how we could make this a much more user-friendly e-learning classroom, especially since our 4th and 5th graders are working out of numerous classrooms instead of one.

Thus, I made the decision to move our 4th and 5th graders into a Seesaw platform like the other elementary children in grades PK-3. Now, everything our 4th and 5th grade students will need for their daily e-learning activities will be located within a single Seesaw classroom, including all of their work for each teacher and all of their special classes like art, music, PE, and library. It is truly a one-stop shop. This should resolve the issues that some students were experiencing by having to go to so many individual classrooms and sites without a single, unified checklist to guide the actual activities that need to be accomplished each day. This should also be much less burdensome for families who have three or more children enrolled in e-learning classrooms.

I have also spoken with Ms. Gaston about abandoning Ignitia from this point forward since it is the only piece we cannot link to the Seesaw classroom. She was in total

agreement that we could forgo Ignitia, so we are removing it from the equation beginning on Tuesday.

We are going to launch our Seesaw 4th and 5th grade virtual classrooms next Tuesday, so I wanted to provide you with this [Seesaw link](#) so you can simply click the link provided to locate the right version of the app for your device, download it, and be ready by Monday to enter your child's code to access his/her Seesaw classroom. Some of you may already be familiar with this app if you have younger children in the household currently using it. Mrs. Garcia and Ms. Gaston will be sending each parent the needed Seesaw code via email. Each one is unique to the child it is assigned to.

Next Tuesday, April 14, 2020, your 4th or 5th grader will ONLY be completing tasks that are created to teach them how to use the Seesaw platform with ease. So, be looking for those activities only and no standard work in their standard academic subjects. We want them to be successful navigating this new tool, so we are providing a training day. If you are new to this, we encourage you to join them if you are able. It is a wonderful digital learning platform!

We pray that this will be a welcomed change once you see how much easier this platform is to navigate, while also seeing how it benefits your child by providing differentiated instruction and greater engagement.

For everyone who has provided constructive feedback regarding our e-learning program at TSCA, thank you! We appreciate hearing about your positive experiences with digital learning; however, we also need to know when something is not working well for our parents and scholars, so we can identify and make needed changes that result in a better learning experience. We heard you, and we listened!

If you have any other needs or concerns, please let me know. I do promise to address it right away and to seek improvement every time.

I pray you and your family have a blessed resurrection celebration this weekend as we remember and revel in the knowledge that He is risen!

Ladona

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