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March 27, 2020

Greetings Little Flower Parents and Guardians,

I hope this letter finds you and your family safe and healthy amidst these trying times. This letter is to inform you of the digital learning launch on Monday, April 6 through Microsoft Office 365, a cloud-based platform that is compatible with any PC, Mac, or mobile device. Login credentials specific to your child will be forthcoming prior to April 6.

As the learning packets which arrived home (or to your child in the RTC) earlier this week were the first phase of our continuity of learning plan, Little Flower staff are preparing for a transition to digital learning. Office 365 integrates with PowerSchool, our student management system, and many of our students have worked within Office 365 in Ms. Genna's computer lab.

What to Expect on April 6

Each classroom and subject area teacher will post daily content on their respective O365 classroom pages, accessible to your child when they login. Daily posts will vary in format, and may include links to videos, online resources, present course content, ask your child to complete a task or activity, or submit an assignment.

Assignments will be limited to one weekly per section. Elementary and middle level students will have brief assignments per content area. High school students will have one assignment per week per subject.

Assignments will be submitted through O365 but will not be formally graded at this time; instead, teachers are encouraged to engage in feedback and dialogue with students.

For any related services your child receives, that provider will be posting weekly content as well as reaching out to you to coordinate a phone or virtual session (referred to as telehealth) to serve in lieu of your child's service session.

Access to Technology

As the digital platform will require online access, the district will make a Mac Mini or laptop available to any day student or RTC student not on the campus. We will be providing several desktop units to each cottage, as well.

Many internet service providers are offering free WiFi connectivity during this time -- inquire with your local ISP is needed.

If you do not need access to a device, Office 365 is compatible with any PC, Mac, or mobile device. You are encouraged to use your home device if that is what you and your child are comfortable and familiar with.

To request a district device on loan for the duration of the school closure period, please email Principal Robert Scappatore at rsappatore@littleflowerufsd.org no later than Tuesday, March 31. Devices will need to be picked up from the Wading River campus at a pre-arranged time on Thursday, April 2, or Friday, April 3.

Questions or Support

All faculty and staff emails are posted on the district website under the COVID-19 Updates link. Please reach out to appropriate contacts as necessary and expect a response within 24 hours.

We thank you for your support, cooperation, and dedication, and are confident this model will benefit each student.