Dear St. Peter School Family,

Thank you to those who responded to the survey I sent out last Saturday. If you have further input please send it my way. We will continue to adapt our home/e-learning. In the meantime, we are all expecting an update from the Governor soon about the target date of if/when students across our state can return to school. Please rest assured that we have a plan to continue your child’s Christ-centered education. If we engage in home/e-learning for longer than through April 7, or even the rest of the school year, the feedback you provide will be extremely important for us in keeping our plan moving forward. I have read each of your survey comments about our first week of at home learning and I am encouraged by your thoughts and strong support. We are responding to this situation as a team, and I am honored to be part of it. I know that you are faced with sudden navigational challenges as you juggle work, family, and your other newfound responsibilities. We will continue to grow and learn together. Thank you for your support and prayers.

Just like other private schools, St. Peter is not pro-rating tuition during our home/e-learning plan. I truly believe that this is generally understood and supported. (This is not a common question coming up. I simply want to be proactive in our communication.) Our teachers are working harder and longer than ever before to deliver extraordinary home/e-learning education. We are committed to enable your child to have the best opportunities to learn and grow. It seems as if the entire industrialized world is delivering a home/e-learning program right now. I truly believe that our first week of this was a bit ahead of the mainline educational curve. I also know we will get better.

A number of you have asked how you can help during this unprecedented time. Some of you have generously provided for those who are struggling financially by donating to our Kirsch-Flett Scholarship. These gifts help our families to be able to continue their Christian education at St. Peter. If the St. Peter family can assist you or your business during our stay at home order, let us know so we can assist and get the word out. If there are more creative ways we can support our community please reach out to me directly. I know that our food pantry was considering the idea of gift cards for our patrons. At least one of our classes is writing letters to those in nursing homes. Keep your ideas coming. Who knows how God will use this pandemic for us to serve Him?

School is back in session on Monday. Look for your child’s teacher to tell you
about the new learning opportunities. We will work at being more educationally interactive in the week ahead. You can expect to see more teacher videos for instruction as well as opportunities for class meetings. Home/school communication is key for your child’s success. I know that your “family time” the past two weeks may have been different than what you thought it would have been a few weeks earlier. Undoubtedly there was some panic and confusion as our world around us changes so rapidly. Some day we all may look back on this and cherish the concentrated time we are having with those we love the most.

The teachers and I are meeting via Zoom later today. Look for another note from me Monday that will provide greater detail about our school week ahead. Enjoy the end of our Spring break! It’s great to be in family with you!

Sincerely,

Stephen P. Zielke
School Principal