

Dear Parents and Guardians,

With the recent snow event, I have noticed some parents rejoicing and others unhappy about the disruptions to the school schedule. Please accept our apologies for the cancellation of some school days, the late starts, and the early dismissal. Rest assured, as much as we would like classes to be in session, our priority is the safety of our school families; we do not want to put pressure on anyone to take avoidable risks. I realize that some are well prepared and experienced at driving in these conditions, however, this weather is atypical, therefore presenting an elevated risk to the norm.

To facilitate the continuous learning for your children, I am providing some tips for parents and students. Learning does not have to be driven by curriculum, rather an individual deep desire to be a life-long learner. I encourage you to use some of the day to engage your children in age appropriate studies; sometimes children need a little prompting. The following may provide some beneficial starting points:

- Read – could be a novel, magazine, or non-fiction book. Have them read and then retell you what they read about to facilitate deep learning and cognition.
- Write – encourage your child to journal, using descriptive language, their experiences with the snow event. At the end of each day, try listing the 10 things you learned for the day.
- Draw – encourage creative thinking by having your children draw what they see. Their works could be a cartoon, lead pencil drawing, in color, and so on. Find something unique about the snow event to draw.
- Explore – read a chapter or a part of the Bible; then have a conversation about the context and meaning of these scriptures.
- Watch – informative and educational television such as the National Geographic channel and learn something new about God’s creation, society, or history. Have a conversation about what is said to reinforce the learning.
- Play – if you have a musical instrument, try self-teaching a new song or refine one you already know.
- Explore – the internet or dive into educational websites such as the Khan Academy (<https://www.khanacademy.org>) and learn or increase understanding about school materials. Hours can be wisely invested here.
- Practice – Spanish by watching a movie in Spanish and turn on the subtitles in English so you can get feedback about your understanding.

- Talk – with your parents or grandparents and ask about their life when they were young and get an understanding of the life lessons they learned and challenges they have overcome through their life.
- Bake – look up a recipe using only ingredients available at home.
- Do some exercises – do some push-ups, sit-ups, burpees, squats, lunges, windmills, planks, stretches, broad jumps, vertical jumps, or even dance to a few songs.
- Spend some time in prayer – make your relationship with God closer.

These are just a few practical tips and I realize it is a list that is open-ended and could go on forever. The intention is to provide a few options.

Discourage extended periods of time on social media, watching mind-numbing TV, and gaming. Instead, encourage your child to spend at least a part of the day taking some initiative with a focus on self-improvement and self-directed learning.

Your patience and understanding is appreciated through this unusual weather. I am confident that I am not alone in praying for the safety of all of our school families.

Stay Safe,

Gus Martin