



Virtual Instruction and Learning Guidelines – April 17, 2020

These continue to be uncertain times. Our hopes of returning to school in the near future seem tenuous at best. We have learned a great deal about VIL through trial and error and have had spring breaks to help us regroup. The duration of VIL is requiring us to examine policies and practices and find ways to adapt. Some of the questions below have been addressed in previous VIL Guidelines but responses have been updated.

[Unmotivated People Can't Motivate Anybody](#) is a podcast by Robyn Jackson. She does promote her workshops but when she gets on topic (8:35) it is worth listening to.

Q & A

How do we assess/grade students for the remainder of the year?

This is a time to be strategic in instruction and assessment planning. We are all focusing on “prioritizing” our priority standards, but this is the time to consider what can be done in the weeks remaining, whether virtually or in-person. Mapping out the remainder of the year in collaboration with teacher(s) who will be working with your current students next year will bring some clarity to gaps that will need to be addressed during the summer and/or as the next school year begins.

- Are there certain domains/topics that should be prioritized across grade levels? For example, a gap in the geometry domain in mathematics is more easily rectified than a gap in number operations, even though both domains have priority standards on the report card.
- Are assessments you are using requiring students to demonstrate proficiency in an authentic and reliable way? Your goal is to have enough evidence of proficiency on select priority standards so learning is accurately reported.
- Is there a formal and concise process in place to identify gaps? If your school has or will be offering summer learning opportunities, it will be important to have an efficient way to determine instructional priorities sooner rather than later. If you will not be seeing students until next year, having gap data will allow planning to begin prior to August.

How will report cards look for the last grading period?

The Office for Schools is in the process of gathering advice and recommendations from the Archdiocese of Milwaukee Assessment Committee and the Superintendent's Advisory Council regarding this issue. We are also consulting with PowerSchool to make sure grading options are supported in the system. We will be providing 3K-8 schools with grading options before the end of the month. The focus for teachers should continue to be on the question of proficiency rather than an attempt to assign grades.

How do we continue to address teacher effectiveness during VIL?

The move to VIL has changed the way we interact professionally. To maintain a focus on professional growth, principals should encourage teachers to utilize the **Teacher Effectiveness Framework (TEF)** to validate their efforts in planning and delivering VIL by uploading or submitting evidence of the work they are most proud of. Below is a list of the most relevant TEF components related to VIL.

Domain 1: Classroom Community

Component 1B: Works with families as partners in their child's education. The teacher...

- Provides feedback of student progress to families
- Engages families as partners in the educational process and the life of the school

Domain 2: Professional Life of a Catholic Educator

Component 2C: Contributes to a positive school environment. The teacher...

- Collaborates with colleagues to analyze, inform and plan

Domain 3: Planning and Instructional Effectiveness

Component 3A: Uses best practices to support learning. The teacher...

- Demonstrates knowledge of students
- Sets instructional outcomes
- Designs coherent instruction
- Transfers content knowledge to students
- Promotes learner engagement

Domain 4: Assessment

Component 1A: Uses assessment to advance student learning. The teacher...

- Uses assessment data to design instruction
- Clearly identifies and communicates assessment criteria
- Provides opportunities for student self-assessment and monitoring

Should we be continuing First Communion preparation with our students?

The interruption of First Communion preparation at the school and parish levels will require assessing the situation and determining what is necessary and possible to do during the pandemic. For teachers, do what is possible to continue and adapt sacramental preparation as part of regular religion classes.

When will First Communion be celebrated?

While our Sacramental Guidelines explain that the Easter season is the most appropriate time for this celebration, a parish is not limited to the Easter season if circumstances require a greater delay. Any communications about the celebration of First Communion should come from the parish.

What resources for religious education are available to teachers and DRE's during the pandemic?

[Resources during the Coronavirus Pandemic](#)
[Catechetical Resources](#)
[Virtual Youth Ministry page](#)

Additional Resources:

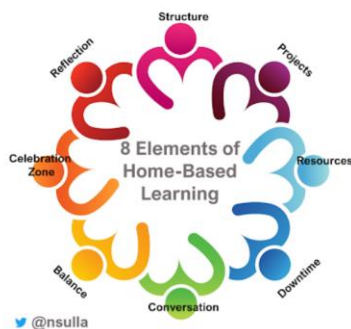
For K-12 Parents and Teachers:

[8 Elements of Home-Based Learning](#)

The 8 elements of home-based learning, with specific suggestions for parents, are a great resource for teachers to consult when giving advice to parents or the information could be shared directly with parents. Suggestions are provided for K-12 students.

8 Elements of Home-Based Learning

Click on the links to explore:



[Structure](#)

[Projects](#)

[Resources](#)

[Downtime](#)

[Conversation](#)

[Balance](#)

[Celebration Zone](#)

[Reflection](#)

Resources for Middle/High School Teachers and Parents

[Parents: Quick Tips for Supporting your Middle Schoolers at Home](#)

[Caring for the Parent-Teacher Relationship During COVID-19](#)

[COVID-19: Helping Students Develop the Motivation to Invest in Their Learning While Sheltering at Home](#)

Free Handwriting Practice Packs

Downloadable PDFs provide practice writing legibly in manuscript or cursive. Whether you currently teach *Zaner-Bloser Handwriting* or not, these resources will be useful if handwriting is currently part of your grade-level curriculum.

Click to Download

[Manuscript Practice Pack](#)

[Manuscript Paper Templates](#)

[Cursive Practice Pack](#)

[Cursive Paper Templates](#)

[Grade K Activities](#)