



Virtual Instruction and Learning Guidelines – March 26, 2020

Welcome to Week 3 of our VIL journey. I think many of you have had or will soon be having spring break, allowing everyone to take a deep breath and evaluate your VIL plan. I think it is appropriate to begin this edition of VIL Guidelines with a wonderful reflection on gratitude. [Let's Change That](#)

Q & A

How do we support teachers as we face long-term school closures?

One thing we need to give serious attention to is the well-being of our teachers. Ultimately, they determine the success of VIL in meeting the academic and social/emotional needs of their students. The pressure of all of this cannot be overstated. As you review your VIL plan, consider ways to streamline it so that you maintain quality while simplifying implementation. I have heard many ideas to accomplish both, including:

- Have a schedule that allows certain subjects to be addressed on alternating days.
- Allow for flexibility in deadlines. Some families have multiple children and few devices. Being flexible with remove stress for teachers and families.
- Be creative. How about making a day this week “specials” day (focusing on physical exercise, art, and music) that doesn’t depend on technology? Students could keep a log (journal, take or draw pictures, music that makes them happy) of the activities. They could create a video of their activities that could be posted and shared. The possibilities are endless, but the real benefit would be a break for students, parents, and teachers trying to navigate the logistics of VIL.
- Focus on prayer.
- Focus on positivity.
- Focus on relationships.

Articles worth sharing:

[I've Been Teaching Online for Years. Here's How to Prevent Burnout During a School Closure](#)

[Communicating Effectively With Students During Online Learning](#)

What are the guidelines/recommendations for Early Childhood in a VIL environment?

The Wisconsin DPI has posted the following *Age & Developmental Learning Guidelines for Digital Learning*:

The [Wisconsin Model Early Learning Standards Guiding Principles](#) provide important guidelines for instructional design for our youngest learners. Core principles include: a child's early learning and development is multidimensional; expectations for children must be guided by knowledge of child growth and development, and children learn through play and the active exploration of their environment. **Some districts are creating non-digital learning options for early learners, which is allowable as the communication with parents and guardians helps to bridge home and school learning.**

Resources:

I know your professional expertise far exceeds mine, but I have included some resources that have come my way that may be useful.

Webinars Links - Technology

I continue to be impressed with the NCEA/Eduscapes webinars. These webinars were specific to Google and Microsoft platforms for VIL.

[GOOGLE FOR EDUCATION](#)

[MICROSOFT TEAMS](#)

[Leading Remote Teaching with Google - A Catholic School Principal's Guide](#)

The Department of Public Instruction has a wealth of resources on its District Planning and Implementation Resources link. An excellent resource for those using a Google platform is found at [Google Teach From Home Resources](#). The site has video tutorials for all Google tools for virtual learning.

Early Childhood:

These activity sheets are free to all. I have heard good things from EC teachers who use the Allelu! Program, so am comfortable sharing these resources.

I included this on the ArchmilEarlyChildhood Facebook page as well. If your EC teachers are not part of that closed group, I highly recommend they join. It is an active site with over 250 members, all EC teachers in the Archdiocese of Milwaukee.

The digital ***Allelu!*** pages are now online.

They are all available at these direct links:

http://allelu.com/pdf/X943.pdf	PreK 3 English
http://allelu.com/pdf/X1251.pdf	PreK 3 Spanish
http://allelu.com/pdf/X839.pdf	PreK 4 English
http://allelu.com/pdf/X1083.pdf	PreK 4 Spanish
http://allelu.com/pdf/X941.pdf	Kindergarten English
http://allelu.com/pdf/X1171.pdf	Kindergarten Spanish

Archdiocese of Milwaukee Catechist Resources

[Resources during the Coronavirus Pandemic Catechetical Resources](#). Note that some are direct links; some require a code, which can be shared; for others, just contact the company rep. For ministry with middle and high school teens, visit the [Virtual Youth Ministry page](#).

Free Resources for Parents

St. Mary's Press has pulled together free resources that parents can use with their elementary, middle school and high school young people while they are at home.

[View Elementary Resources >](#)

[View High School and Middle School Resources >](#)

Physical Education

This is one of many sites that have “exercise” and “brain break” videos for students, but it seems to have a great deal of additional resources for physical education teachers.

<https://teachphysed.weebly.com/vigorous-level.html>

Science

Many of you use Mystery Science, so I wanted to share this update with you. They have released over 100 mini-lessons for you to use. See the sample below – very timely indeed.

[How does hand sanitizer kill germs?](#)

[Watch video](#)

[Explore all](#)

- **Access all lessons, free.** We've unlocked all mini-lessons and made all of our lessons available free through June, for all parents and teachers. You can invite others to sign up for free by sharing this URL: <https://mysteryscience.com>
- **Share student links** with parents. *Students don't need accounts or logins*; they just click **Use easy-access** [school closure resources](#). Copy and paste 10-12 student links per grade; these are the easiest lessons to do at home. This page is also [available in Spanish](#).
- We are working on an app that children can use independently at home. A link will be shared when it is ready.

Social Studies – Economics

EconEdlink offers lesson plans K-12, online videos and other resources for economics, personal finance, and entrepreneurship connecting with current events, civics, math and history. Website is searchable by grade level and activities.

[EconEdLink](#)

[EconomicsWisconsin Teacher Resources Page](#)

I hope the information and resources in this week's *Virtual Instruction and Learning Guidelines* was helpful. Please feel free to send questions to me (nelsons@archmil.org) so we can address them next week.