

Affirm, Refine, Aspire

HS4 Learning Services ~ May 6, 2021

When Change is Upon Us ~ We Shift Gears ~ We Always Have...

Included in this edition: Google Tips & Tricks, Parent Support for Learning from Home, Numeracy, Literacy & Assessment in Online Learning, Connecting to the Land & more!



Amid the ongoing challenges of our current situation, it's important for all of us to [prioritize wellness](#); focusing on physical and mental health, accepting that our plans have changed significantly, and [grounding](#) ourselves through [prayer and gratitude](#) will see us through this uncertain time. Thank you for all you do for your students and their families and for our Holy Spirit community.

Take care of yourselves & your family -- you're needed! If you need support in your work, feel free to contact us! learningservices@holyspirit.ab.ca

A Prayer for Catholic Education Week

"Those who hope in the LORD will renew their Strength." Isaiah 40:31

Lord God, in your kindness, you allow us to share in your creative designs for humanity through our work each day. Open our eyes this morning to the wonders you are accomplishing in our midst, that we might work in confidence, knowing that your guiding and strengthening hand accompanies us wherever we go. We make this prayer to you through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Carmen Larsen
Director of Learning

10 Tips for Distant Teaching with Mathletics

We are able to roster additional students/classes to our Mathletics subscription (Grades 1-12) for the remainder of the year. Please email learningservices@holyspirit.ab.ca if you are interested.



Google At Your Fingertips!

Google Meet: Back to Basics for Teachers.
Learning Services Special Edition Newsletter [here](#)

[Five Tips for Google Classroom](#) by Alice Keeler

Consider Interactive Bellwork with [Google Slides](#)! Rather than just project your "Bellringer" activities on the SmartBoard, use Google Slides to share them with your students. You can include photo's, videos, links and more to make these everyday activities more interactive. ([For Do's & Don'ts](#)). You can even post a [QR Code](#) that links to your presentation and students can go back to previous days activities for review. *Source: mhall/Smore Hive.*

Google Forms Can Grade 4U! Click [here](#) to find out how! (****you won't need to use Flubaroo or a Spreadsheet!*).

Get organized with [Google Keep](#)! Create & Manage Lists! The app will even **transcribe text from a picture!!!**



Resources to Support At-Home Learning for Elementary Students

Please feel free to make copies, use bits and pieces from these resources, or send them to your students as they are.

Choice Boards

As students shift to at-home learning, providing choice and flexibility in their assignments can help maintain motivation and reduce stress, both for the students and their caregivers.

- [Math Choice Boards](#)
- [Spelling Choice Board](#)
- [Literacy Choice Boards](#)

Games

Games are a great way to review math concepts and involve caregivers in learning.

Grades 1 and 2: [Math Games for Early Number Concepts](#) - with video instructions to make them easy to learn
[Math Games Using a Deck of Cards or Dice](#)
[Copy of Single Player Math Games](#)
[Building Conceptual Understanding and Fluency Through Games](#)



Formative Assessment Tools & Providing Feedback

As we engage students in virtual learning experiences, it continues to be important to check for understanding and to provide meaningful feedback to students. Here are **key considerations** when offering feedback in a virtual environment. As well, listed below are suggestions for digital tools available to teachers to support formative assessment.

1. **Know your purpose for assessment.**
2. **Collect data over time.**
3. **Focus on feedback**
4. **Check for understanding**
5. **Have personal conversations with students.**

For details & resource links click [here](#).

[How to Do Formative Assessment in Distance Learning](#)

[Top Tech Tools for Formative Assessment](#)

Online Resources

These resources are great for synchronous class meetings. Just download the PowerPoints and share your screen - no other prep required!

- [Esti-Mysteries: Estimation Meets Math Mysteries](#)
- [Splat!](#)
- [The Fraction Splat! Series](#)
- [The Estimation Clipboard](#)

In addition to other digital subscriptions you may have (Mathletics, Zorbits), this resource may be helpful for students working on multiplication. Organized as a course, it leads students through visual representations and activities to build conceptual understanding.

- [The Multiplication Course by Steve Wyborney](#)

Online Learning Parent / Guardian Newsletter

Feel free to share with the Parents / Guardians of your students

Supporting Parents with At-Home Learning

The involvement of a responsible adult, typically a parent, is critical to the success of online learners. K-12 learners need the support of a caring adult to build executive functioning, manage their workload and maintain motivation. Teachers can support parents in this role by implementing a few key practices:

- * Recognize that there are differences in opportunities and resources among students. Where possible, build choice into assignments, make connections to daily life, and be flexible with due dates. Consider low-tech and outdoor learning options.
- * Keep instructions simple, organized, predictable and brief.
- * Keep the lines of communication open. Set aside time to answer questions from parents, and ensure they know when you're available to meet with students. Consider using a brief survey to find out what kinds of support may be needed.
- * Help parents adopt the perspective that tasks are about learning, rather than work completion. Let them know you believe that the child's well-being is more important than getting everything done.
- * Keep expectations reasonable, and set specific, achievable goals. Continue to focus on essential outcomes, and differentiate tasks or consider reducing the workload according to individual learning needs.
- * Offer encouragement and validation. Many parents are worried about how the cancellation of classes will affect their child's education, and may feel inadequate about their ability to support learning at home. Your reassurance during this challenging time will be appreciated.

Indigenous Education for ALL

Click here!

HOLY SPIRIT



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