

BSS NEWSLETTER

Friday, March 20, 2020



NON-TRADITIONAL INSTRUCTION INFORMATION & RESOURCES

Information from your Administration

Parents,

We hope day one of non-traditional instruction was a successful and rewarding experience.

Please be aware that when students are using the internet at school, there are safeguards in place to prevent them from accessing content that is objectionable or inappropriate. Those same safeguards likely do not exist at home, unless you have set them up yourself. Even though the devices are school-issued, we filter content at our firewall, which does not happen when devices are used at home. Please monitor student use.

We have received several good suggestions and pieces of feedback so far. We will work to implement subtle changes to ensure NTI is running as smoothly as it possibly can.

Thank you for partnering with us on this journey.

Mr. Dan Steffen Mrs. Jen Geiman

-Mr. Steffen & Mrs. Geiman

Other Important Info

Please [CLICK HERE](#) to view the most recent statement from Bishop Foys regarding steps that the Diocese of Covington is taking to help prevent the spread of CoVid-19. We will keep you updated with any changes as soon as possible.

Please know that these precautions are being taken with the health and safety of all of us in mind. Take time every day to pray with your family, and consider joining in prayer with others online. If your family would like to join in the celebration of mass from your home, please [CLICK HERE](#) for online mass options listed on our parish website.

Please [CLICK HERE](#) for information about free resources offered to any K-12 student by the Kenton County School District during NTI.

Prayer for a Pandemic

May we who are merely inconvenienced
Remember those whose lives are at stake.

May we who have no risk factors
Remember those most vulnerable.

May we who have the luxury of working from home
Remember those who must choose between preserving their health or making their rent.

May we who have the flexibility to care for our children when their schools close
Remember those who have no options.

May we who have to cancel our trips
Remember those that have no place to go.

May we who are losing our margin money in the tumult of the economic market
Remember those who have no margin at all.

May we who settle in for a quarantine at home
Remember those who have no home.

During this time when we cannot physically wrap our arms around each other,
Let us yet find ways to be the loving embrace of God to our neighbors.

Amen.



#BSSatHome

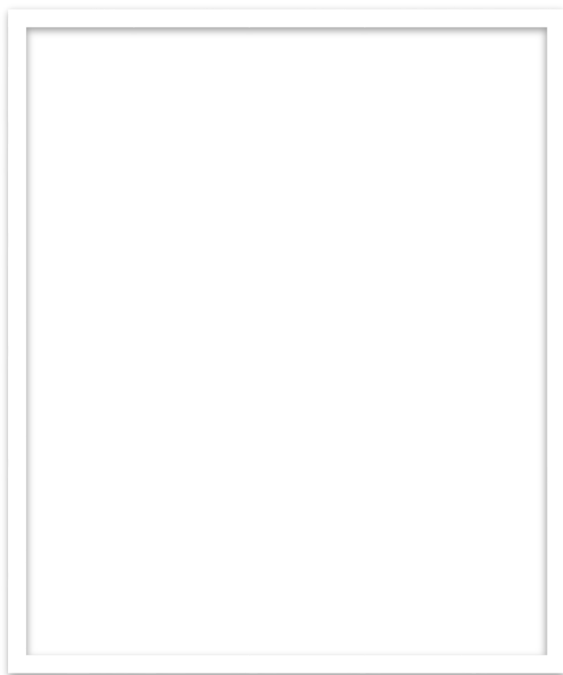
We want to see what Non-traditional Instruction looks like in your home. Family pics, workstations, selfies... we miss all of you and your smiling faces!

Tag your photos on social media with the hashtag #BSSatHome

To see everyone else's posts, simply click on the hashtag in Instagram!

Also, please send pics to annernst@bssky.org, and we'll post them here in our new NTI Newsletter!

Everyone stay home and stay healthy!



BSS Grade-Level & Specials Resources

Kindergarten (KA): Parents should begin each day by referencing the lesson plans for that were emailed and provided when students' materials were picked up.

Kindergarten (KB): KB should look for their introductory video for the day from Mrs. Seiter. There you will find the format for each day and extra activities/videos to go along with each lesson.

Kindergarten (KC): Parents should begin each day by referencing the lesson plans for that were emailed and provided when students' materials were picked up.

Grade 1: Each day, the first grade parents can review the typed plans that were both emailed and sent home as a hard copy for this round of NTI. Please remember to be working in each subject a little each day, add in breaks for the kids, and try and begin work at the same time each day for consistency and routine for the kids. Thank you for all your hard work at home!

[Spashlearn.com](https://www.spashlearn.com) (please email your homeroom teacher with questions)

Grade 2: Parents should begin each day by referencing our Class Dojo videos. Then, they can reference our NTI plans sent via email. It details all the assignments through March 27th.

[Spashlearn.com](https://www.spashlearn.com), [Readworks.org](https://www.readworks.org), [ClassDojo.com](https://www.classdojo.com),
<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCLdGnfC6aZg4CI1HHldVT8A> (Mrs. Wirtz's YouTube)
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wCYQOMCTx3k&t=5s> (Mrs. Cowles' YouTube)

Grade 3: Students should start by referencing the calendar that was sent home. All details regarding assignments can be found in the 3rd grade Math, Reading, and Writing Information emails. Religion, Science, and Social Studies information can be found in the emails sent home by the specific teachers.

[Wonders](https://www.wonders.com), [Spashlearn.com](https://www.spashlearn.com), [Brain Pop](https://www.brainpop.com), and [Think Central](https://www.thinkcentral.com)

Grade 4: Parents should begin each day by checking the 'at home learning calendar' that was emailed. It includes a checklist of the assignments that need to be completed each day. See lesson plans from 4th grade teachers on specific directions for assignments, as needed. Students needing Mrs. Wood's math assignments should refer to Class Dojo.

Zoom app (please download and create an account), [ClassDojo.com](https://www.classdojo.com),
Google Docs, YouTube, [Clever](https://www.clever.com) (for access to Quizlet and Thinkcentral)
Websites for research: <https://www.ducksters.com/>, <https://kids.kiddle.co/>, <https://mrnussbaum.com/>

BSS Grade-Level & Specials Resources

Grade 5: Parents should begin each day by referencing the Google Calendar. It details all assignments to be completed for the day in Google Classroom or on paper.

Google Classroom- <http://classroom.google.com>, Membean- <https://membean.com>,
IXL-<https://www.ixl.com>, [Prodigy](#), [NewsELA](#), [Mathgames.com](#), [Common Lit](#)

Grade 6: For core content classes, parents should begin each day by referencing our “6th Grade At Home Learning Calendar” which has been given to parents/students electronically and was picked up with materials. All details related to each assignment can be found in the teachers’ corresponding Google Classroom. All work in each daily column should be completed by the end of that day. Spanish assignments will be posted to Mrs. Miller’s Google Classroom on Wednesdays and Fridays.

Google Classroom, <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCDIUz4F0OhKmcJuELURGImA/>
(Ms. Schklar’s YouTube Channel), Zoom app (please download and create an account), Genius Scan

Grades 7 and 8: Students should begin their day by checking the student calendar in Sycamore. That assignment will then direct them to either Google Classroom or Edmodo to complete the assignment.

Google Classroom, Sycamore, Membean (Language Arts), Edmodo.com (Math and 7th grade Language Arts), <https://www.noredink.com/> (7th grade Language Arts), [NewsELA](#) (7th grade Language Arts), <https://connected.mcgraw-hill.com/> (Science), Zoom app (please download and create an account)

Spanish (grades 5-6):

Google Classroom, Quizlet

Spanish (grades 4, 7, 8):

Sycamore

Reading Specialist:

www.nessy.com (this site is great for phonemic awareness, phonics, and reading and spelling help)

www.scholastic.com/learnathome (this free site allows kids to continue to read and grow)

www.readingiq.com (this site allows free 30 day access to thousands of digital books for ages 2-12)

www.readworks.org (this site is free to sign up as a parent and work on reading comprehension)

1. Interview a family member.
2. Measure the area and perimeter of each room in your home (bonus points for windows!).
3. Graph the types of birds that frequent your yard or windows.
4. Be completely silent for 60 minutes, then write about the experience.
5. Write and mail a [real] letter to your teacher or principal or classroom pen pal. Address the envelope yourself.
6. Build a "fable fort" out of blankets and chairs. Camp in it all day and create stories to tell your family over dinner.
7. Learn Morse Code and use it to communicate with your siblings through walls and floors.
8. Alphabetize the spices in your kitchen.
9. Stay up late and stargaze.
10. Call a grandparent or older relative. Ask them to teach you the words to a song from their childhood days.
11. Using household materials, build a working rain gauge, barometer, and wind vane.
12. Determine and chart the times that different liquids require to turn solid in the freezer.
13. Design and build puppets to perform a show.
14. Construct a family tree.
15. Learn ten new big words. Write them in marker on your bathroom mirror.
16. Draw a map of your home and neighborhood.
17. Sit silently for 15 minutes while you write down every sound you hear.
18. Create a Venn Diagram that compares and contrasts two people connected to you in anyway.
19. Learn, practice, and perform a magic trick.
20. Learn, practice, and tell three new jokes.
21. Use household materials to make and play stringed, percussion, and wind instruments.
22. Learn to shine a pair of shoes.
23. Collect leaves from ten different (non-harmful) plants. Sort them by size, color, and texture.
24. Put your favorite book, toy, and keepsake on a small table in sunlight. Draw or paint a full color still life.
25. Find, pick, and dissect a flower.
26. If you have stairs, walk up and count them. Walk down and count by twos. Walk up and count by threes. Continue through tens.
27. Determine the volumes of ten containers, then display them in order on your porch.
28. Write a poem on your sidewalk using chalk.
29. Classify twenty everyday objects by shape, size, color, height, mass, and material.
30. Measure the length of your bed using five different nonstandard units.
31. Call a person who speaks a language you do not. Ask them to teach you five common words or phrases.
32. Create and use a secret code.
33. Using one type of paper (constant), build three different paper airplanes (independent variable) and test to see how far they fly (dependent variable).
34. Set a clock three hours and seven minutes ahead. Whenever someone needs to know the time, help them figure it out by subtracting.
35. Write down every adjective you say for one full day.
36. Color in a map with every state you (or your family) ever visited.
37. Write or tell a story titled "What if humans had to leave the Earth and no one remembered to turn off the last robot?"
38. Find ten rocks smaller than a dime.
39. Using paper, tape, and string, design, build, and test a device that warns you when someone opens a cabinet.
40. Imagine, create, and fly a full size flag that tells the world about you.

FUN IDEAS

to fight boredom

Websites Recommended by BSS Faculty

<https://classroommagazines.scholastic.com/support/learnathome.html>

[https://create.kahoot.it/register/sign-up-options?](https://create.kahoot.it/register/sign-up-options?accountType=teacher&plan=premium12nocct_schools&next=%2Fregister%2Fupgrade-confirm)

[accountType=teacher&plan=premium12nocct_schools&next=%2Fregister%2Fupgrade-confirm](https://create.kahoot.it/register/sign-up-options?accountType=teacher&plan=premium12nocct_schools&next=%2Fregister%2Fupgrade-confirm)

[BoosterthonCharacter.com](https://boosterthoncharacter.com) Access Code: **AtHome**

RECOMMENDED SPECIFICALLY FOR FIRST GRADE:

<https://www.scholastic.com/teachers/student-activities/>

<http://www.zoodles.com/free-online-kids-games/first-1st-grade>

<https://www.edu-games.org/math/games/> (This one should let you create your own games.)

<https://www.education.com/games/first-grade>

<https://www.ixl.com/math/grade-1> (this one may require a sign-up)

<https://www.adventureacademy.com>

<https://www.funbrain.com/>

<https://www.neok12.com/games.htm>

<https://www.verywellfamily.com/best-free-educational-websites-for-kids-3129084> (This site should offer a jump to several others.)

<https://www.jumpstart.com/parents/games/learning-games#>

<https://www.123homeschool4me.com/1st-grade-worksheets/> (This one should have worksheets/games you can print.)

Local Online Resources for Kids

<http://cincinnatizoo.org/home-safari-resources/>

While the Cincinnati Zoo is closed and kids are home from school, let us help make your children's hiatus from school fun and educational. Join us for a Home Safari Facebook Live each weekday at 3pm EDT where we will highlight one of our amazing animals and include an activity you can do from home. Don't have access to social media? No worries! All videos will be posted on our website and to our YouTube channel shortly after the Facebook Live ends.

<https://www.cincymuseum.org/wonderzone/>

Curiosity is far too big to fit into a museum, so we're bringing it straight to you. WonderZone brings experiments and museum experiences into your home. Follow along and try your hand at some of these experiments or just watch and enjoy.

Educational YouTube Channels

[Liberty's Kids](#)

Here is a great opportunity for your kids to experience a “history surge” and get a huge, entertaining, and compelling dose of American history. Liberty’s Kids first aired on PBS decades ago, and is a fantastic narrative account of the American Revolution, spread over 40 episodes, 23 minutes each. So “assign” four episodes a day and you’ll kill an hour and a half for two full school weeks!

[Mark Rober](#)

This former NASA engineer is a rock star YouTuber, with over 10 million subscribers. It’s not hard to see why: he comes up with super fun and engaging ways to explore science concepts and engineering challenges—like showing kids how carnival games rip you off, or testing if sharks can taste a drop of blood. A good place to start is his “learn some science” playlist, currently at 26 videos, 10 to 15 minutes each.

[Extra Credits Extra History](#)

Extra Credits started as a channel for gamers, especially those interested in historical war games, but its creators also now make videos about history itself. They are up to over two hundred at last count, each last ten or fifteen minutes, and ranging all across the world and various epochs. Many are focused on military history (understandable given the channel’s genesis), with occasional diversions. Their vast offerings allow them to deeply explore topics. They dedicate four episodes, for a total of more than forty minutes, to the Punic Wars, for example. Compelling narration and cute animations combine for addictive viewing for budding history buffs.

[Bill Nye the Science Guy](#)

Why not go old school? This iconic show aired for five seasons in the mid-1990s, so if you think Friends and Seinfeld still feel fresh, why not give this a shot too? There is a playlist with 48 full-length, 23-minute videos, covering virtually every major topic in the science curriculum.

[Crash Course](#)

This is the granddaddy of educational YouTube, created by Hank and John Green, aka the Vlogbrothers, the latter of whom is already familiar to young readers as the *New York Times* best-selling author of *The Fault in Our Stars*. They have built a huge library of videos across most major disciplines, including playlists of forty-eight videos on U.S. history, seventy-two on world history, and fifty on U.S. government and politics. Each episode is generally ten to fifteen minutes long and features John Green talking about the subject, mixed in with some humor and animations. It’s geared toward high-schoolers but works for precocious younger kids too.

Educational TV Shows & Movies

The Magic School Bus (Netflix)

Sure, scientific knowledge is constantly evolving, but Mrs. Frizzle never gets old. Like Bill Nye the Science Guy, this is another mid-1990s children's show about science; that must have been some sort of Golden Age. And it brought real star power, as the title character was played by Lily Tomlin. I can't vouch for the recent Netflix reboot, *The Magic School Bus Rides Again*, but the original is a fantastic introduction to key scientific concepts for the early-elementary school set.

Walking with Dinosaurs (YouTube TV)

It's amazing that it hails from the late 1990s, given how good the CGI is. It looks and feels just like any other great nature documentary from the BBC—complete with the Kenneth Branagh narration. Check out the companion *Walking with Beasts*, *Walking with Cavemen*, and *Walking with Monsters* too.

National Geographic Ancient Civilizations (Amazon Prime)

This series will kids up to speed on the ancient world, covering ancient Egypt, Greece, Rome, and the Americas, among others.

Jane (Netflix, Hulu, Disney-Plus)

A wonderful documentary about the life of Jane Goodall, the pioneering woman whose decades-long study of chimpanzees gave us critical information about our cousins, and ourselves. Some themes might go over the heads of younger viewers (i.e., her reflections on gender bias) but everyone will enjoy the images of the baby chimps and their parents.

Our Planet (Netflix)

I would recommend some of the classic BBC nature documentaries—like *Blue Planet*, *Our Planet*, and *Frozen Planet*—but as far as I can tell, you have to pay for them, even if you've got subscriptions to all of the streaming sites. So go for this Netflix series instead. With eight episodes, at fifty minutes each, you'll cover all the basic ecosystems on earth. Biology? Check!

FREE Educational Podcasts for Kids

[History Chicks](#)

Each of their 150 hour-long episodes tells the story of a famous woman from history—and some women who aren't famous but should be. It's hosted and produced by Beckett Graham and Susan Vollenweider, two Mid-western moms who adore history and don't think it should be "dusty"—and love to talk and talk and talk. (Another great option in this genre, geared directly at kids, is [Good Night Stories for Rebel Girls](#).)

[Wow in the World](#)

This show from NPR, hosted by Mindy Thomas and Guy Raz, explores fun and fascinating topics in the world of science and technology. There are dozens of episodes at about a half an hour each.

[Tumble](#)

Another award-winning science podcast, co-hosted by a journalist and a teacher, with a big focus on interviewing scientists themselves.

[Freakonomics](#)

Steven Dubner, the co-author of the *Freakonomics* books, examines the "hidden side of everything," from science to sports to politics and more. It's a show for adults but totally appropriate (and captivating) for older kids too.

Educational Websites for Kids

Arcademic Skill Builders - Designed for students in first through sixth grade, the free [Arcademic Skill Builders website](#) has dozens of games that aim to improve your child's knowledge in math, geography, typing, spelling and language arts.

Backpack Sciences - Parents with elementary-age students can access [Backpack Sciences's free video series](#), which teaches kids hands-on science concepts.

Boardmaker - Designed for little kids who are visual learners, [Boardmaker offers free printable activities](#) that are especially beneficial for children with special needs, such as those with Down syndrome or autism.

Book Creator - Parents can help their school-age kids make their own books using [Book Creator's 90-day free tutorial](#), which lets kids write and illustrate their own creations.

BrainPop - [BrainPop](#), a lesson-planning tool, is a great resource for parents of both big and little kids. It's chock-full of helpful resources that span topics like arts and music, English, science, and technology.

Breakout EDU - Whether you have a child in kindergarten or high school, [Breakout EDU](#) has a slew of educational games that touch on subjects like science, math, and language arts.

Century - The folks over at [Century](#) are allowing parents to access all their resources for free over the next few weeks. Designed for students of all ages, kids can brush up on their math, science, and reading skills.

Circletime - Babies and little kids up to age 6 can watch videos that include sing-alongs, beginner yoga, and story time thanks to [Circletime's interactive website](#).

CK-12 Foundation - The [CK-12 Foundation](#) caters to students of all ages. Always free, kids can brush up on their math, science, and reading skills with online reading passages, videos, and optional review questions that are graded at the end.

Conjuguemos - For those who don't have a paid account, [Conjuguemos](#) offers some free vocabulary, grammar, and listening activities in Spanish, French, Italian, German, Portuguese, Korean, and Latin for students at all levels.

Edu-Together - Parents with kids in grades three through 12 can get access to [Edu-Together videos](#) that span all academic subjects, like languages, science, history, and math.

Educational Websites for Kids (cont'd)

Epic! - Dubbed the "leading library for kids 12 and under," [Epic! gives parents access to 35,000 different books](#), videos, and quizzes.

Fluency Matters - Using [Fluency Matters](#), learners of all ages can get access to 21 days of free, engaging content designed to increase comprehension of foreign languages.

Good2Learn - Kids between the ages of 7 and 12 can watch [Good2Learn's instructional videos](#) with a 14-day free trial. Each video lasts between two and five minutes and centers on either math or English concepts.

HippoCampus - Children of middle school age and older can [access more than 7,000 free videos across 13 subjects with HippoCampus](#). The best part? It's always free.

iCompute - [iCompute](#) is giving students from the ages of 3 and 11 free access to its computing content for one month. Kids who are obsessed with all things STEM will absolutely love it!

Izzit - [Izzit](#) is a free site that helps parents and educators teach kids of kindergarten age and older a wide variety of subjects — including language arts, music, math, and world history — through digestible videos.

Kids Discover Online - Parents who are facing school closures can get their school-age kids free access to [Kids Discover Online's library](#) of science and social studies materials for three full months.

Kinedu - The [makers of Kinedu](#) recently announced its library of 1,800 easy-to-follow videos designed for kids up to 4 years old is completely free.

Math Game Time - Whether you have a child in pre-K or seventh grade, you can beat boredom and keep your learner's math skills sharp thanks to dozens of games that focus on everything from counting to algebra on [Math Game Time's website](#).

Minecraft - Education Edition - Who says video games can't be educational? [Minecraft: Education Edition](#) is always free and teaches kids of all ages problem-solving, collaboration, and creativity.

Mystery Science - Designed for kids in kindergarten through fourth grade, the [Mystery Science website](#) recently made dozens of its lessons — which range from 15 to 90 minutes — completely free.

NASA Kids' Club - [NASA Kids' Club](#) helps children in pre-K through fourth grade learn the ins and outs of NASA's missions using hands-on educational games. There's also a "Now in Space" slideshow that introduces budding astronauts to the crew currently orbiting Earth on the International Space Station.

Educational Websites for Kids (cont'd)

National Geographic Kids - [National Geographic Kids](#) has put together a site full of free educational videos, games, and activities that center on wildlife and preservation for kids of all ages.

Nearpod - Offering hundreds of classes in subjects ranging from fine arts to financial literacy, [Nearpod](#) is geared toward students in kindergarten through high school.

Osmo - The award-winning educational brand, Osmo, is offering free access to its app, [Osmo Kaleidoscope!](#) through March 31. Featuring seven hands-on "explorations" geared towards kids pre-K through fourth grade, all parents need is an iPad to get started.

PBS LearningMedia - Parents of students who are in pre-K and beyond can easily search the [PBS LearningMedia](#) site for content covering science, math, language arts, and more.

PebbleGo - A curricular content hub created for students in kindergarten through third grade, [PebbleGo](#) offers ready-made activities and literacy support for children of all abilities.

Raddish Kids - [Raddish, a for-kids cooking subscription service](#), is currently offering free recipes, activities, and an at-home camp curriculum. Additionally, it will be giving away 25,000 free cooking kits over the next few weeks to kids between the ages of 4 and 14!

Rockalingua - A music-based Spanish learning program, [Rockalingua is a great option for young beginners](#) in Spanish thanks to its library of interactive videos. Think of it as an extension of the type of learning Dora the Explorer provides.

Scholastic - [Scholastic's "Learn at Home" program](#) gives parents with children pre-K through ninth grade 20 days' worth of "active learning journeys" designed to keep students engaged while they're out of the classroom.

Scratch - Kids in elementary school can try their hand at coding using [Scratch](#), a free website designed by educators at MIT that's chock-full of dozens of interactive projects.

Seneca - Using [Seneca](#), younger kids can brush up on multiplication tables while middle schoolers practice their pre-algebra skills. There are also Spanish and biology courses available, as well as classes for high schoolers.

Educational Websites for Kids (cont'd)

Sight Reading Factory - Young musicians who want to stay sharp can practice reading music using [Sight Reading Factory's free service](#) through 6/30.

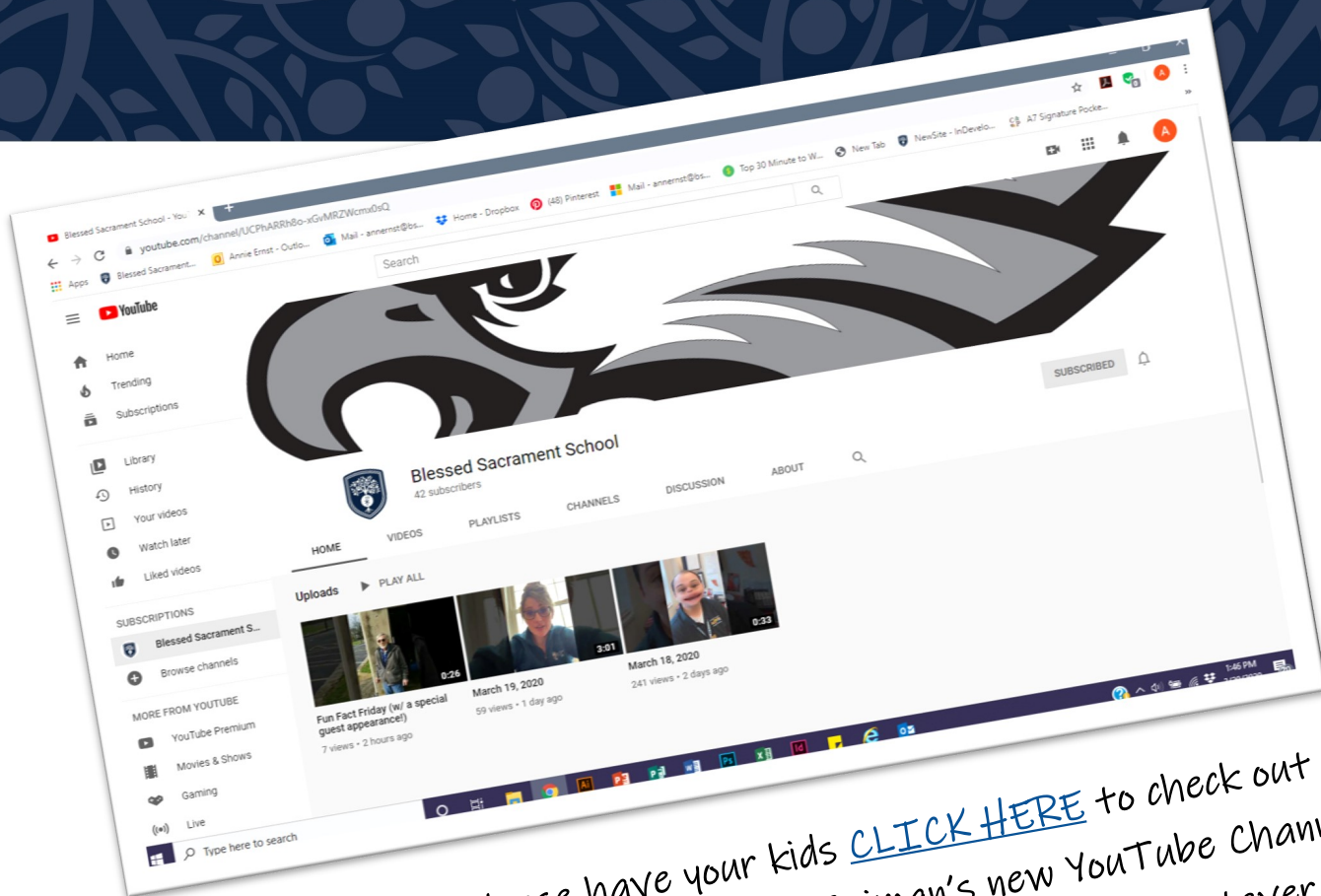
Storyline Online - Want a break from educational games? [Storyline Online](#) recruits celebrities — like Rami Malek and David Harbour — to read popular children's books geared towards kids ages 4 to 7. Watch and listen as they read aloud on Storyline's YouTube channel.

Touchable Earth App - Always free, the [Touchable Earth App](#) lets kids between the ages of 8 and 11 teach each other about the world through short videos. The creators of the program seek to normalize diversity by having children share their various experiences.

TypingClub - Created for children 7 and up, [TypingClub](#) offers free games and activities meant to improve your kiddo's typing skills.

The Weather Channel - A great option for school-age kids, [The Weather Channel's website](#) has a dozen or so science-based videos that touch on concepts such as rainbows, jet streams, and how tides work.

2Simple Purple Mash - A growing online library with guided reading options for students between the ages of 5 and 11, [2Simple Purple Mash](#) also has materials for at-home learning for children between the ages of 2 and 5.



Please have your kids [CLICK HERE](#) to check out Mr. Steffen and Mrs. Geiman's new YouTube Channel for video updates, Fun Fact Fridays, and whatever else they come up with to post!

If you have a great idea to share, feedback on an event, questions on upcoming events, or want more information on how to get involved please contact the BSS Parents Club at parentsclub@bssky.org.

If you have photos of BSS events, sports, after-school activities, classroom parties, etc., please send them to Dawna Thompson at bsskypictures@gmail.com

If you would like to submit an article or flyer to our weekly newsletter, please send information to Annie Ernst at annernst@bssky.org.
All information MUST be submitted by 12:00 pm on Monday to be printed in that week's newsletter.
(Submissions made after the deadline will run in the following week's newsletter.)

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**The mission of Blessed Sacrament school
 is to spiritually, academically, and personally develop active Catholics
 using the Gospel teachings of Jesus Christ.**