



Dear Parents and Guardians,

Teaching and learning in a virtual environment are very different from face-to-face and require extra care for us to prepare and deliver. So far, teachers have been uploading materials onto the SABIS® Digital Platform for students to work independently until the end of next week. Please be reminded that students are not required to submit homework at this time. Homework submissions will begin on March 30th when we begin online interactive teaching. If a teacher has put a due date for work, it is only to help students pace their work.

The past couple of weeks have been particularly complex and challenging for schools, students, and families worldwide, and we are learning a lot. As we continue to prepare for the launch of interactive teaching on March 30th, our IT and academic teams have been preparing a standard approach to teaching using Microsoft Teams as well as planning the teacher training required for successful distance learning. Hopefully, the transition to online learning will be smooth for both parents and students.

Next week, we will pilot three classes to iron out small issues that might arise during online teaching. The classes are fifth grade, Integrated Math 3, and AP Statistics. You will be contacted about this ONLY if your child is in one of these classes.

To enable students to use Teams, they must have new ISM Outlook email addresses that are being created. Next week, we will be forwarding these emails to you. We will make every effort to assist you in navigating your new responsibilities for the assistance that may be required from your end.

I take this opportunity to reiterate that The International School of MN will remain closed until further notice. We are unable to make decisions regarding resuming classes due to the changes that are occurring daily. I will continue to update you on the happenings at the school.

Finally, on a personal note, during times of upheaval and uncertainty, teachers remain the stable figures who provide safety for their students; during such times, I appreciate my colleagues, my students, and all families that make up the ISM community. I applaud our teachers who acknowledge the difficulty of the time and respond to those students who ask: "Yes, things are going to be ok."

I'd like to quote WHO Director-General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus who said, "Let hope be the antidote of fear." Let's indeed assure our children that we will be ok.

Last week's video was a hit! By popular request from parents and students, [Mrs. Bianucci has created another video](#) for you to watch. I hope you read my letter before watching it!

On this positive note, I address our Husky Nation! Next week is Virtual Spirit Week! Help us brighten our social media by participating in our spirit week. Either send us a picture via email (hlindboe@sabis.net) or send it to us on [Facebook](#) or [Instagram](#)! We can't wait to see what you guys have been up to!