

Saint Thomas Aquinas Distance Learning Catholic Academy **Frequently Asked Questions**

How will my student access remote learning materials? Will Saint Thomas Aquinas Distance Learning Catholic Academy students be provided with devices?

Every Saint Thomas Aquinas Distance Learning Catholic Academy will receive the necessary tools and materials, including either an iPad, or a Chrome book for remote learning. In order to keep students connected and be able to meet instructional requirements when learning remotely, every student will also have access to Google Classroom, and other apps.

How will my child grow as a Catholic Christian at Saint Thomas Aquinas Distance Learning Catholic Academy?

St. Thomas Aquinas believed that each child is created in the image and likeness of God, and the school community shares in the responsibility to help all students develop their God-given talents, to the best of their ability. Students will take an active role in understanding and participating in their faith formation. Catholic Christian doctrine will be taught through meaningful lessons and activities, integrated through rich multimedia, relevant and connected to the student's life.

Can my child begin at Saint Thomas Aquinas Distance Learning Catholic Academy in September, and return to their home school anytime during the school year?

The intent for all students enrolled in Saint Thomas Aquinas Distance Learning Catholic Academy is to complete the entire 2020-2021 school year. Parents may choose to return to their home school upon the completion of the first trimester, subject to seat availability in the home school.

Who will be my child's teacher at Saint Thomas Aquinas Distance Learning Catholic Academy? Will my child be taught by a teacher from his/her home school?

All classes will be taught by teachers, specifically chosen to be part of this distance learning Catholic academy. Within the Diocese of Brooklyn there are high-quality teachers ministering throughout all the Catholic Academies and Parish Schools in Brooklyn and Queens. Parents and students can expect the same caliber of teacher, with consistent experience.

Will my children know any of the other students enrolled in Saint Thomas Aquinas Distance Learning Catholic Academy?

While creating class sections, the school administration will make every effort to have same grade level children from a particular home school be placed together.

Does my child have to wear a Saint Thomas Aquinas Distance Learning Catholic Academy school uniform?

Students will not be expected to purchase a Saint Thomas Aquinas Distance Learning Catholic Academy school uniform, however when classes are in session, students will be expected to wear their home school' s uniform.

Will my child be learning the same curriculum as his/her classmates in their home school?

All students attending Saint Thomas Aquinas Distance Learning Catholic Academy will have courses aligned to the New York Learning Standards. The instructional plan is to provide each student with access to the Savvas Realize digital instructional platform. Students will have access to the most up-to-date instructional materials, including digital versions of Reading Street, Elevate Science, enVision Mathematics, My World Interactive Social Studies series, and My Perspectives Reading and Writing series.

Will my child be using the same books as his classmates at his home school?

Instructional materials used throughout all Catholic Academies and Parish Schools are aligned to the New York Learning Standards. Many of the schools within the Diocese use Pearson/Savvas products. All products being used at Saint Thomas Aquinas Distance Learning Catholic Academy will be the most up-to-date digital versions.

How will I be able to contact my child's teacher, if I have questions?

Saint Thomas Aquinas Distance Learning Catholic Academy will establish protocols to communicate with families, including, but not limited to teacher emails, Microsoft Teams and Zoom meetings, and other tools.

How will Saint Thomas Aquinas Distance Learning Catholic Academy share learning experiences with families?

Saint Thomas Aquinas Distance Learning Catholic Academy will use a multi-pronged approach to help families engage with learning. Teachers will post assignments in Google Classroom and meet with students via Google Meet. Additionally, teachers may have synchronous online office hours where learners and parents can meet and discuss the learning units of study, which have been developed. Also, the teachers and school leader will respond to all emails from students and parents as soon as possible, within a maximum 24-hour timeframe.

What will be Saint Thomas Aquinas Distance Learning Catholic Academy's grading policy?

Your child will be assessed continuously and will receive progress reports and report cards. Detailed information about the grading policies will be provided, when the school year begins.

How can I support my child's learning if we have multiple children at home?

Creating schedules and having quiet places for study will help, when multiple children are attempting their schoolwork each day.

How will I know that my child is staying on track with his/her learning?

There will be many ways in which Saint Thomas Aquinas Distance Learning Catholic Academy teachers will be involved in monitoring the progress of students and sharing this information with families. Your child's teacher will provide feedback through various digital platforms and will be available to students and their families during designated office hours.

What if my child has an IEP or receives Special Education services?

Saint Thomas Aquinas Distance Learning Catholic Academy is currently investigating all possible service delivery methods to provide Special Education supports and services. Student's Individual Education Plans will be carefully reviewed, and services will be based on an individual student need basis.

How will my child's attendance be taken and recorded?

Attendance recording will occur through a child's daily meetings and interactions with their teachers. Attendance data will be monitored, to ensure that students are engaged in their learning and to follow up with families where there are concerns.

My child is a high performing student, how will he/she be challenged, have his/her needs met?

Saint Thomas Aquinas Distance Learning Catholic Academy will be adopting the adaptive learning system, iReady. Through periodic assessments, the iReady learning system will develop individualized student learning plans to support student acceleration.

My child will be entering the 8th grade, will the high school application process be coordinated by Saint Thomas Aquinas Distance Learning Catholic Academy?

Saint Thomas Aquinas Distance Learning Catholic Academy is a full-service educational program. Teachers will be responsible for the coordination of the high school articulation process and will communicate with the home school for any needed student data/records retrieval purposes.

There will be on-going communication between Saint Thomas Aquinas Distance Learning Catholic Academy and the home school, throughout the entire high school process.