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December 9, 2020

Re: Grades 7-9 Learning from home

Dear St. Thomas Families,

I hope this letter finds you well as we continue into week 2 of our new online learning reality. We want to make you aware that beginning this week and continuing until the end of the week of Jan 4th, students in grades 7, 8 and 9 will be provided with the opportunity to participate in weekly exploratory option challenges. These challenges are designed to provide our students with the opportunity to have fun and participate in activities related to three exploratory option subject areas. Students who are interested in participating can sign up for their grade with the classroom code found below. Each grade will rotate through a challenge in Foods, Art, and Photography during these three weeks. The challenge of the week will be posted on Monday morning, will be due Friday and will be complete with instructions, safety requirements and submission details. Top contributors may have their work displayed on STA's social media. The schedule and corresponding Google classroom code for the various grade level challenges is below.

<p>Grade 7 (Classroom code: x4besce) Dec 7 - 11: Foods Dec 14 - 18: Art Jan 4 - 8: Photography</p>	<p>Grade 8 (Classroom code: t7u2aga) Dec 7 - 11: Art Dec 14 - 18: Photography Jan 4 - 8: Foods</p>	<p>Grade 9 (Classroom code: bz27n2a) Dec 7 - 11: Photography Dec 14 - 18: Foods Jan 4 - 8: Art</p>
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Additionally, we want to take this opportunity to make you aware of a few slight modifications that will take effect within our At-home learning structure. Moving forward, we will be requiring all of our students to attend a minimum of 3 weekly Google meets facilitated by their teachers. Each of these required Google meets will have a unique academic focus. One will have a Math/Science focus, one will have a Social/English focus and one will have a Religion focus. If students do not attend these required Google meets, families will be contacted. Please note that many teachers are already planning additional synchronous learning activities and may require your child to be present for Google meets more often than this minimum requirement on an as needed basis. As mentioned in my letter dated December 2nd, we believe that Asynchronous curriculum delivery needs to remain our primary method of instruction because of the benefits that it provides for students and families in the areas of flexible pacing and accessibility. Having said that, we recognize the need to balance this approach by continuing to provide

our students with opportunities to remain connected to our teachers and their classmates. We will continue to evaluate our processes moving forward and will communicate any future modifications should they arise.

Thank you for your grace, perseverance and dedication to learning at a distance.

Yours in Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'I Stang', written in a cursive style.

Ian Stang
Principal