



Catholic Pastoral Center | 2800 McGavock Pike | Nashville, TN 37214-1402 | 615-383-6393

March 11, 2020

Dear Catholic School Families,

With the presence of the COVID 19 virus in our state and local Nashville region, I reach out to inform you of directions issued to all our diocesan Catholic schools, and particularly those in the Nashville area. The health of our students and school communities remains our top priority, as such, prudent measures must be taken to address the challenges this virus presents.

Please know the Catholic Schools Office and fellow diocesan and parish staff continue to monitor information and guidance delivered by federal, state, and local authorities and public health experts. On February 27, 2020, all Catholic schools were directed to develop contingency plans should the school have to close for an extended period. Administrators were also instructed to inform parents that local health conditions were being monitored.

Currently the number of cases in Middle Tennessee have reached a level where new precautionary measures need to be taken on a larger scale. After consult and approval from Bishop Spalding, the Catholic Schools Office now directs our diocesan Catholic schools to the following:

- Schools will close all or part of the school day on Friday, March 13, 2020. Administrators will determine whether a whole or half day is needed and communicate that to his/her school community. This time is essential for teachers to properly collaborate and establish lessons that can be easily distributed and managed at home or online.
- Students will be directed to take the necessary tools and resources home with them before dismissing for spring break.
- Schools will have the school deep-cleaned using products targeting COVID 19, MRSA, flu and common cold viruses over spring break as a precautionary measure.



Building Kind Hearts, Strong Minds and Confident Leaders in Faith.

FATHER RYAN HIGH SCHOOL	POPE JOHN PAUL II HIGH SCHOOL	CHRIST THE KING SCHOOL	HOLY ROSARY ACADEMY	IMMACULATE CONCEPTION SCHOOL	SACRED HEART SCHOOL - LAWRENCEBURG	SACRED HEART SCHOOL - LORETTO	ST. ROSE OF LIMA SCHOOL
ST. ANN SCHOOL	ST. EDWARD SCHOOL	ST. HENRY SCHOOL	ST. JOHN VIANNEY SCHOOL	ST. JOSEPH SCHOOL	ST. MATTHEW SCHOOL	ST. PATRICK SCHOOL	ST. PIUS X

- Students traveling internationally to countries identified by the CDC as a [Level 3 Health Risk](#), (countries to which the CDC recommends avoiding non-essential travel) will be **required** to self-isolate at home for 14 days before returning to school. Students traveling elsewhere internationally or domestically to [regions with high frequency](#) of reported cases are **asked** to self-isolate at home for 5 days.
- On Thursday, March 19, 2020, school administrators will communicate updated conditions of the school and surrounding community and alert families on the status of the school's reopening on Monday, March 23, 2020. (Immaculate Conception will communicate on Thursday, March 26, 2020 for school's reopening Monday, March 30th.)
- Iowa Assessment testing at our elementary schools will be delayed pending analysis of conditions after spring break, but will begin no sooner than Wednesday, March 25th. (Immaculate Conception School schedule will vary as determined by their spring break week March 23-27, 2020).
- Decisions for future events, particularly school-sponsored travel and events that draw large crowds together, will be made in consult the Catholic Schools Office and taking all current conditions into consideration.

You can stay abreast of diocesan news pertaining to this virus at www.dioceseofnashville.com. For information on speaking with your children about the Coronavirus, please visit the [National Association of School Psychologists website](#) or the [National Association of School Nurses](#).

Finally, while events such as these can incite discord in communities, let us as people of Faith, place our trust in God and pray for the intercessions of our Blessed Mother Mary, that all communities are restored to good health and that those who suffer any illness are granted comfort. Let us also continue to hold the recently deceased and those affected by the tornadoes in our prayers, that all may know the comforting love of our Heavenly Father.

Thank you for your support of our Catholic schools. Be assured of my prayers for all of you.

In Christ,



Rebecca Hammel
Superintendent of Schools

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