



Catholic Diocese of Saginaw

4/2/20

Dear Catholic School Community,

In an executive order issued today, Governor Whitmer announced that schools will remain closed for the remainder of the 2019-20 academic year as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. It is important that our Catholic schools across the Diocese of Saginaw cooperate with and support the governor and health officials in their decision to remain closed. During this extended closure, our Catholic schools will continue to provide virtual/modified instruction. We remain focused on serving your family during this challenging time.

Over the past few weeks our Catholic school leaders on a diocese and state level have been in frequent contact. In the very near future, I will again be meeting (virtually) with our school principals to continue to address the myriad of challenges that the closure will create for our students, families, staff, and faculty. We will continue to work diligently to address your spiritual, academic, extracurricular, and social concerns in a timely fashion. This process will require further consultation with teachers, counselors, administrators and other important partners. We know that you have many questions and we appreciate your patience as we work to address your concerns. Our first priority is and continues to be supporting our students and families.

While some traditional end-of-year events are still several months away, it is very possible that social distancing practices may continue to be in place. This may require us to modify, delay and/or possibly cancel some activities. Especially for those students who are scheduled to graduate from one of our schools, we will work assiduously to find a way to honor your accomplishments and provide a fitting closure to your Catholic school education. As we move forward, your principal will update you as soon as all necessary details can be finalized.

I am grateful for our teachers and principals who have invested so much time and energy over the past three weeks to sustain student learning during the initial closure. There was and is a learning curve for everyone during this period. Based on the growth I have seen thus far, I am confident that we can continue to enhance and streamline our delivery process moving forward. With the recent order by the governor, we can begin to develop more long-term strategies to support our students for the remainder of the school year. We look forward to sharing these plans with you as quickly as possible. The approach will vary from school to school as well as by grade level. I encourage any family who has experienced challenges of any kind with the virtual/modified instruction to communicate with your principal. We are committed to supporting all our students and we understand that every home and family is unique.

I am extremely thankful for the effort you are making as parents and family members to assist our teachers as we educate in place. Education is truly a collaboration between the school and family. I greatly appreciate and respect your willingness to support your child's continued academic growth in the home during this unprecedented time. Our teachers and administrators are dedicated to partnering with you and your child as we navigate this new educational landscape.

Please do not hesitate to reach out to me if I can be of any assistance to you or your child. As we move forward together, I take great solace in the fact that "nothing will be impossible for God." (Luke 1:37)

Respectfully,

Cormac Lynn

Superintendent of Schools

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