



SAINT MONICA SCHOOL

212 Lawrence Street
Methuen, MA 01844
Telephone: 978-686-1801
smsoffice@methuencatholic.org

Fax: 978-686-3582

March 13, 2020

Dear St. Monica School Families:

It has been a confusing few days as the COVID-19 outbreak continues to unfold, and we understand how anxiety-inducing this may be for all of you and your families. Please know that we continue to closely monitor federal and state agencies for information and are working diligently to keep the entire school community healthy and safe.

First and foremost, it is important to note that St. Monica School has no confirmed or suspected cases of COVID-19. Mrs. Sanborn and myself have been diligently monitoring absences, following up with doctor's notes and in communication with parents. I have also been in communication with the Department of Health, Archdiocese of Boston and working in collaboration with the Methuen School Department to best protect our community.

With that being said, this situation is changing hour to hour and it is important to be prepared for possible school cancelations. It is my goal to be aligned with the Methuen Public School protocol similar to what we do for snow day cancellations. **At this time, St. Monica School will follow the Archdiocese of Boston's directive and the Methuen School Department and close until March 30th.** As things progress and change, I will continue to share that information with you and your family.

St. Monica School has an education plan in place for a continuation of learning in the event we move to a remote learning environment (online). Faculty and staff have met this morning to put together a plan and discuss what this online learning will look like for the different grade levels. There is no way we could replace the valuable instruction offered by our teachers, but we want to make sure our students do not lose any skills.

This is what I can share generally. Our goals are simple.

1. Students should be engaged in learning activities that keeps skills fresh and minds active.
2. We will utilize the various on-line resources and subscriptions we already have in place: Grades K-2 SuperKids, Grades 3 – 8 HMH Into Reading and Literature, Grades 3-8 Pearson Social Studies, Grades 6-8 Pearson Science, IXL Math for Grades 6-8 as well as Google Classroom. All assignments will be accessible by parents through the FACTS/Renweb Student information system. In addition, teachers may continue to send emails with updates.
3. We need to work together to navigate this situation the best we can. This is not a perfect system and there will be things that are out of our control. It is hard for me to depend solely on technology for learning, especially with our youngest scholars- but we will do the best we can.



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4. I will work with teachers to make sure activities and assignments are reasonable and most importantly-fair.

Another important part of keeping our campus safe involves frequent deep cleaning and disinfecting of the building by our janitorial staff and maintenance workers. They are working tirelessly to make sure “touch points” (door knobs, faucets, hand rails, etc.) and high traffic areas are kept clean for our safety. As stated by the Centers for Disease Control, the best protection against COVID-19 starts with each of us. Simple actions such as washing your hands, avoiding sick individuals and staying home when you are sick are best practices for combatting this illness.

Please know that the welfare of our students, staff, and their families is my number one priority. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to reach out to me. I will do my best to answer your questions or direct them to an optimal resource for an answer.

In peace and health,

Mrs. Donna Henderson