



St. Augustine Catholic School

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April 28, 2020

Dear SAS Families,

I hope this letter finds you safe and healthy. As we enter the spring season, I would like to update you on our online learning plans for the rest of the year. First of all, I would like to express my gratitude for all our students, parents, teachers, and staff for their flexibility in the face of this unprecedented situation. Our St. Augustine School community has stepped up to the challenge for the benefit of all our students. Thank you.

After careful discernment and examination of our local situation and in consultation with the School Leadership Team, we have decided to conclude our formal online academic instruction on Friday, May 29. There are several reasons we have made this decision. First of all, there were several snow days that were built into our calendar that we have not used; therefore by May 29, we will have met the instructional hours requirement for the 2019-2020 school year. Of further concern is that as we approach 10 weeks of online learning, our students will be ready for a break. Finally, during the final week of a typical school year, students would be involved in several end of year activities (field days, field trips, classroom and school celebrations, etc), and since these activities will not be taking place under the current circumstances, we recognize that continuing academic instruction through June 5 will not be necessary.

As of May 29, students who have engaged in distance learning will have formally completed their current grade's curriculum and should be on track for promotion to the next grade pending their academic performance. If you have any specific questions about your student, please do not hesitate to contact your child's teacher or myself.

It has been a longstanding tradition that eighth grade finishes early; therefore, their last day will be on May 21. Furthermore, preschool was previously scheduled to end on May 20/21; and the end date for this program will remain the same.



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It is important to note that May 29 does not mark the *end* of our work together and support of families; rather, we look forward to shifting to online enrichment activities that best suit the needs of our students during the summer months. In the coming weeks, we will communicate with you regarding online summer enrichment. It is important to stay connected and spiritually close during this unique time of social distancing. We are also exploring the possibility of coming together in-person, God willing, later in the summer when and if it is deemed safe by health and government authorities. More information will be coming regarding these plans as they can be made.

I understand some of our families may have students attending other schools, including nearby high schools. Please know that the Archdiocese of Detroit's Department of Catholic Schools Department has encouraged all 87 Catholic schools to make decisions regarding the academic year to best fit each community. (For more information about another school's plan going forward, please contact that school's administration).

Thank you again for your continued partnership and ongoing efforts during this time. May God bless you and your families with health, safety, and comfort during this extraordinary time. St. Augustine, pray for us!

Very truly yours,

Emily Lenn
Principal

Cc:

Fr. Joseph Mallia
Angie Naylor
Laura Knaus
Kevin D. Kijewski, J.D.