



March 16, 2020

Dear St. Mary's Faculty, Staff, Parents, and Students,

We continue to appreciate your patience and flexibility as we strive to maintain clear communication and transparency in light of the continued concerns of the Coronavirus, or COVID-19, unfolding across our state and nation. As you are all aware, St. Mary's School has followed Governor Reynolds' recommendation regarding the closing of school for a period of time beginning today, March 16. This also applies to all school events and activities. Attempts will be made to reschedule what we can as soon as we have more information. We will continue to work with the Diocese of Sioux City and the Iowa Department of Education to determine plans moving forward and will continue to update you as applicable.

At this point in time, we are asking St. Mary's School faculty members to come into school tomorrow, Tuesday, March 17, to work on preparing some academic resources that they could provide to our school families via electronic means. These resources will be age and content-appropriate for students, and serve as merely a means for enrichment opportunities for families who would like to use them.

Additionally, we realize some students may have left personal belongings or educational materials in the school building that they and/or their families would like access to. In an effort to help families gain access to these items, St. Mary's School administration will be granting access to the building on Wednesday, March 18. However, to adhere to recommendations limiting large gatherings of people, we ask parents to try and come within these designated windows of time: 7-9 a.m. (PK-5 families), 10 a.m.-12 p.m. (high school students able to transport themselves), 3:30-5:30 p.m. (6-12 families). If the window of time provided for your particular student group does not work into your schedule, you may come at one of the other times posted. We are simply trying to limit the number of people in the building at any given point in time. The visitor door and north elementary door will be open during these time frames for students and parents to come pick up desired items.

On another note, we also want to encourage you to still complete your online TADS applications as soon as possible and by April 1st to be considered for a diocesan scholarship award. We were informed today that there are currently no plans to extend the April 1st deadline. The deadline to submit required tax documentation is April 22nd. We do not know if this will change if tax deadlines get pushed back by the government. If you need help with scanning tax documents to submit, please contact the business office at 712-732-3110. Parent support phone lines for TADS are also open. TADS is processing applications as normal and happy to assist families with questions about completing their applications. You may reach TADS staff at 1-800-477-8237, Monday - Friday 7:00am - 8:00pm CST and Saturday 9:00am - 4:00pm CST. TADS staff are also available through live chat on their website at www.mytads.com or by email at support@tads.com.

Please also note that when it comes to your re-enrollment deposit for St. Mary's 2020-2021 school year, if you are unable to make the full deposit in light of the current economic situation unfolding, do not hesitate to reach out to Father Brent Lingle at St. Mary's Parish Office (712-732-3110). We are willing to work with families as best we can during this challenging time. We do ask families to continue making their tuition payments as best they are able until we know more regarding requirements to make up time missed while we are closed. St. Mary's School also has bills it needs to pay, and we appreciate your faithful financial support as we continue to operate in a limited capacity.

Finally, for any families in need of meal assistance for their children (18 years of age or under), Storm Lake Community School District is offering breakfast and lunch options while our community's schools are closed. Please know that St. Mary's School families are eligible to participate in this free program, and we are thankful for the Storm Lake Community School District's commitment to help all our community's families at this time. If interested, the drive-thru meal service at the Storm Lake High School runs from 8-8:30 a.m. and 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. each weekday. Meals are available for pick up at bus stops throughout the community as well. See the list of times and locations below if interested:

Park Street: 7:30 a.m. & 1 p.m.

4th and Expansion: 7:45 a.m. & 1:15 p.m.

RJM Apartments (E. Milwaukee): 8 a.m. & 1:30 p.m.

Majella & Lake Street: 8:20 a.m. & 1:50 p.m.

Daphne/Lakeview Lane: 8:35 a.m. & 2:05 p.m.

Seneca Street Apartments: 7:30 a.m. & 1 p.m.

9th Street Ball Field: 7:45 a.m. & 1:15 p.m.

South School: 8 a.m. & 1 p.m.

China House: 7:30 a.m. & 1 p.m.

Grace Lutheran: 7:50 a.m. & 1:20 p.m.

W. Lake Estates: 8:10 a.m. & 1:40 p.m.

Emerald Park 8:25 a.m. & 1:55 p.m.

Once again, we are all moving through uncharted waters, and we may not be able to provide the immediate answer to all your questions. We continue to ask for your patience, continued support, and cooperation as we work through all this together, and we will communicate with you additional updates and changes as soon as we are able. Continue to pray with your children for those affected by COVID-19, for their families, and all civil and medical personnel, and may the Blessed Virgin Mary, our patroness, continue to guide and protect each of us during these challenging times.

Sincerely in Christ,

Father Brent C. Lingle
President

Mr. Ryan Berg
6-12 Administrator

Mrs. Diane Jones
PK-5 Administrator

Mrs. Kate Swanson
Lead Teacher