



Office for Catholic Schools
Diocese of Scranton

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Dear Families:

Thank you! We appreciate your partnership in your student's education, and we are humbled by the support all families have provided our students, teachers, and administrators during our transition to distance learning due to COVID-19. This exemplifies the true Catholic school spirit and difference. As our Catholic school family continues to face these unsettling times, we are grateful for the dedicated faculty and administration who provide our school families the ability to connect daily and to continue academic growth. While we know this does not replace face-to-face instruction, our principals and faculty are working hard to ensure the continuation of instruction through distance learning. They are preparing lesson plans, are accessible for feedback and working to ensure the best experience possible. Remember, the administration and faculty from your respective schools are a resource during this unprecedented time.

School Closure Update:

In our previous communication regarding COVID-19, we stated the school closure would last until March 27, 2020 at the Governor's direction. While the state just issued new guidance on the term of closure, we believe it to be in the best interest of the health and safety of our school community to extend the closure for all schools in the Diocese of Scranton until April 14, 2020. The situation continues to be fluid, and for planning purposes, we will alert you of any changes to those dates as soon as possible.

At this time, all school buildings are closed to all personnel. Principals are now working from home. Should you need to communicate with school administration, please use the principal's e-mail. Please note, with respect to Easter, teachers will not be sending lessons Holy Thursday, Good Friday, or Easter Monday (April 9, 10, and 13, 2020).

As we continue to practice social distancing through working remotely and distance learning, we are reminded of the importance to connect with one another. Achieving a connection during this time may look different, but can be done. All of our schools have been finding ways to keep our communication lines open and positive school spirit alive. We have been enjoying the posts to social media displaying our smiling students learning in their unique environments. Continue to keep these lines of communication open with your school and share your experience with your school's teachers and principal.

Financial Impact:

We recognize the significant financial impact COVID-19 is having not only on your family, but also our schools. In our fiscal planning, we are making daily adjustments to ensure the long-term sustainability of Catholic education and are conscious of the strain on you – our families who already sacrifice so much – and the school employees who put their heart and soul into offering valued services to our families during this time and every day of the year.

Regarding the fiscal operation of our schools, we are faced with the prospect of significantly reduced funds coming from our parishes and reductions in tuition revenue. We know you share concern for our faculty and administrators; therefore, we think it is important to share that a fiscal goal during this health crisis will be to maintain a viable health insurance program to serve our dedicated school employees. Outlined below are some of the measures we are considering:

Our Mission - to inspire faith, learning and service
Our Vision - to promote responsible leadership in our Church and our world

- Measures to address payment plans while ensuring continuity of instruction
- Waiver of certain fees
- Furloughing staff across Diocesan operations

We anticipate making some decisions in the next week to 10 days regarding many of these items.

In the interim, if you have already been impacted financially and finding it difficult to make tuition payments, please contact the tuition associate for your respective school found at the bottom of this letter.

Concluding Thoughts:

While we are certainly faced with this time of stress, we encourage everyone to use this time to focus on family. Pray together. Talk with one another. Laugh together. It is often said that we rarely have the gift of time granted to us. While COVID-19 has strained so many aspects of life and daily routines, it may just be granting us the gift of time together. Learn from one another, get to know each other and be the strength for each other as we persevere through these unsettling times.

We continue to keep the health, safety and well-being of all of the members of our Catholic School Family in our prayers. Let us all pray that St. Joseph continues to watch over and protect us.

Sincerely,

Jason Morrison
Diocesan Secretary of Education/CEO

Kristen Donohue
Superintendent of Schools

Tuition Associate Contact Information:

Alicia Busch - Alicia-Busch@dioceseofscranton.org

- Good Shepherd Academy
- Holy Cross High School
- Holy Redeemer High School
- LaSalle Academy
- Our Lady of Peace School
- St. Jude's Elementary School
- St. Mary's Mt. Carmel School
- St. Nicholas/St. Mary's Elementary School

Tara Adams - Tara-Adams@dioceseofscranton.org

- Msgr. McHugh Elementary School
- Notre Dame Elementary School
- Notre Dame Jr./Sr. High School
- St. John Neumann Jr./Sr. High School
- St. John Neumann Elementary School

Katie Henry - Katie-Henry@dioceseofscranton.org

- All Saints Academy
- Epiphany Elementary School
- Holy Family Academy
- Holy Rosary School
- St. Agnes Elementary School
- St. Clare/St. Paul School
- Wyoming Area Catholic