

July 24, 2020

Dear Parents,

It was our greatest hope that we would be able to welcome all our students back to campus on August 12th. However, today Judge Hidalgo ordered that all public and private schools remain closed until September. As we stated in our First Look Reopening Plan, if local officials or the Archdiocese mandate closed campuses or 100% virtual start, then our School Board approved an adjusted school calendar that would delay the first day of school. While religious schools are not legally required to follow this mandate, it does require us to seriously weigh the costs against the benefits of returning to on-campus learning so soon.

Therefore, in order to best serve the safety and wellbeing of our students and staff, the first day of school will be postponed until September 8, 2020 and the last day of school will be extended until June 11, 2021. [You can find the fully amended 2020-2021 school calendar here.](#)

As our First Look Reopening Plan indicated, we are in the process of making extensive modifications and improvements to our campus facilities. Rest assured that between now and September 8, our staff will work toward the completion of the projects mentioned in our Reopening plan and teachers will have more time to continue preparing for a robust blended learning environment, which will make on-campus and remote learning much safer and more effective.

Families will continue to have the option to participate in Distance Learning instead of on campus instruction, beginning Sept 8th. Families who want their child/children to opt-in to Distance Learning for the first quarter, should complete this [Distance Learning Agreement](#) for each child by Aug. 24th. Families who opt-in to Distance Learning will be contacted to arrange pick-up of academic materials needed for Distance Learning.

Additionally, as we continue to plan for returning to campus, please be sure to complete the [After-school care Needs Assessment found here](#). Provision of after-school care in each grade level will be based on feasibility of enrollment needs.

Our return to campus will demand shared accountability from all St. Theresa families in supporting the STCS Health & Safety Protocols. The School is working diligently to reopen campus as safely and smoothly as possible; we are counting on you to do your part to support this process. Keeping your children home when they're not feeling well is essential. Additionally, prepare your child that some school routines will be the same and some will be different. Encourage your children to be flexible and resilient as they navigate new routines and challenges. We ask you to partner with the School to prevent the spread of COVID-19 and other viruses by:

Maintaining preventative health practices:

- Continue regular doctor visits and well-child appointments.
- Keep immunizations and physicals current.
- Encourage lots of physical activity and time outside.

Keeping your child emotionally safe:

- Ask how they are feeling and give them space to share and ask questions.
- Maintain at-home routines to provide stability.
- Continue reassuring them that the adults in their lives are there to support their well-being, both physically and emotionally.

Teaching and encouraging health and hygiene protocols:

- Visually show and practice keeping 6 feet apart.
- Practice wearing a cloth face covering.
- Encourage frequent hand washing and use of hand sanitizer.
- Practice coughing and sneezing into elbows.
- Add daily temperature checks to your morning routine.

Please know that the health and safety of our students and staff are at the forefront of every decision made. These are unprecedented times, but if we work together, we can help our kiddos safely return to learning and adjust to the new normal.

Yours In Christ,

Melissa Ilski | Principal

St. Theresa Catholic School

6500 Durford Street | Houston, Texas 77007

School Office: 346.335.1700

Email: melissa.ilski@sttheresa.cc

www.StTheresaSchool.cc Follow us on [Facebook](#)

This email contains confidential information, which may also be legally privileged and which is intended only for the addressee. If you are not the intended recipient, you are hereby notified that any dissemination or copying of this email may be strictly prohibited. If you have received this email in error, please immediately notify us by email and delete this message from your system.