



April 1, 2020

"Pray, Hope, and Don't Worry" - St. Pio

Dear Good Shepherd K-8 Parents,

When you write so many communications in such a short period, it is hard to know where to start and if the information will still be relevant when you finish writing! Thankfully, we have a few Saints who can help. This quote from St. Pio jumped out to me because it is so simple. We are all currently faced with new challenges, and if we can approach them with prayer, hope, and faith, we will get through this together as a school family.

I am so thankful for our students and our faculty because they showed such resiliency and creativity as they shifted quickly to remote learning and teaching. I know from your many encouraging emails and social media posts you appreciate the work that our faculty are doing as they too juggle family and professional responsibilities. I am also thankful for your patience as we take in all of the information that is coming out each day and assessing how it impacts us. We continue to be flexible and ask you to keep up with things as they change. Updates are available on GoogleClassroom, the school website <https://gsschoolnyc.org/> and our social media platforms. We made a fast switch to remote learning, and we know that we have some improvements to make. With your kind feedback, we can continue to improve.

Here are a few updates as of this writing on April 1, 2020:

- Based on Superintendent Mr. Michael Deegan's statement, our earliest return to the classroom will be Monday, April 20. This date remains subject to change based on the evolving COVID-19 circumstances.
- We will honor Easter vacation starting April 9 at noon through April 17 as scheduled. Classes resume on April 20.
- All grades and credit earned will continue to count toward graduation for our Eighth-Grade students.
- The third-quarter marking period will end on April 8.

- We will release Report Cards for K-8 students on April 23.
- Baptism, Penance, Communion, and Confirmation dates are not yet confirmed. Father Michael will update us accordingly.
- **Kindergarten** Registration and **Re-registration** are ongoing. Please email Mrs. Kennedy hildakennedy@gsschoolnyc.org your intentions for next year. We do not expect payment of (re) registration fees at this time. Scholarships for Kindergarten may be available.

I have received several emails regarding tuition. Tuition is due April 15. We are actively working to find ways to provide some relief and support for families who have lost their income and find themselves in financial difficulty due to the COVID-19 crisis. We suspended all **late fees** on accounts for March payments and onward. We believe that a sense of community – a sense of shared responsibility — will be instrumental in navigating all of us safely through the turmoil of the coming weeks, if not months. I am available at geraldinelavery@gsschoolnyc.org to discuss your particular financial circumstance.

Let us all move forward, accepting St. Pio's challenge to "Pray, Hope, and Don't Worry!"

Stay safe and well -

Kindest Regards,

Mrs. Geraldine Lavery
Principal

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