

**ST. BENEDICT**  
CATHOLIC CHURCH AND SCHOOL



St. Benedict Catholic Church and School  
165 Bethany Road  
Holmdel, New Jersey 07733  
Phone: 732.264.5578  
Fax: 732.264.8679  
[www.stbenedicholmdel.org](http://www.stbenedicholmdel.org)

May 5, 2020

Dear Eighth Grade Parents:

This has been a year to remember. The COVID-19 pandemic has turned all of our worlds upside down; all of us craving the normalcy to which we have grown accustomed. The current State of New Jersey, and frankly the world, does not permit us to celebrate your graduates in a way that all of us would like. There are many variables that have brought us all sadness over the last 7+ weeks, but the absence of the 8th Grade end-of-year activities is extremely important and will be addressed. Our graduates have dedicated themselves to St. Benedict School, their academic curriculum and their faith. They need to be acknowledged as St. Benedict Alumni of the past have been celebrated. We want to make this as special as we possibly can for all of them.

Although our commencement exercises will look different, they will still honor the work of our graduates and recognize their countless accomplishments. The current plan (which is subject to change) is to have a virtual Baccalaureate Mass and Awards Ceremony. St. Benedict School will stream these ceremonies online to allow academic, athletic, and artistic awards to be given to the deserving members of the Class of 2020. The formal graduation ceremony will be postponed until a date in the summer. Our goal is to still hold a traditional graduation ceremony; we just have to wait until we are permitted to safely congregate. In these trying times, St. Benedict School will be doing things never before done in our history.

As we move closer to our initial graduation date, St. Benedict School will be creating graduation "packages" that will be hand delivered to each individual graduate's home. This package will include the cap and gown, graduation tassel, yearbook, lawn sign, and other St. Benedict School merchandise. Even though we cannot all meet together personally, a few staff members will be coming to you. More details about this special initiative will follow.

Every year, parents of eighth graders pay a fee in order to cover the cost of graduation expenses. The COVID-19 situation has reduced the fee this year to \$75 dollars. This fee will cover your graduate's yearbook, cap, gown, tassel, diploma cover, and graduation T-shirt. This fee (made payable to St. Benedict School) can be dropped off or mailed to the Main Office or be paid online at <https://stbenedicholmdel.churchgiving.com/GraduationFee2020>.

We kindly ask that it be submitted no later than May 15, 2020. It is important that these funds are paid in order to receive these important items to commemorate this milestone.

Thank you for trusting St. Benedict School to provide a quality Catholic Education for your children. I wish you continued health and happiness as we finish up the 2019-2020 school year.

Sincerely,

Kevin Donahue  
Principal, St. Benedict School