

Information as of 27 March 2020

Dear Cougar Parents,

After today's announcement by the governor, it is necessary once again to address how we respond to such news? How do we respond as a Catholic school? We are still mandated by the gathering number requirement, which is currently, five. With that being said, our BUILDING is closed for gatherings of five or more, but NOT the educational process St. Mary's is historically known for.

In my humble opinion, Catholic school children are amongst the most fortunate in the entire state of New Mexico. Our students have received opportunities to learn while most remained idle without choice. We partnered with you to ensure this happened. We will continue to do so.

In a matter of hours, a model of continuing our children's education was put into place. This plan has not been without its challenges for all of us; as are all plans that must be implemented during a crisis. We will continue to work diligently together as a team to put forth the best educational practices.

Our objective remains the same, to ensure Catholic teaching and continued learning. We will continue to meet the academic standards required by the Archdiocese of Santa Fe. We expect academic integrity on the students' part as usual.

Another focus of attention is our 8th grade graduation and students sacraments. We will honor our graduates and our students making their sacraments when we are allowed to do so.

As mentioned in my last memo, if your family's income has been effected by this crisis and you are not able to continue your FACTS payments, please let me know. We will work with you to defer your payments. Again, no student will be withdrawn from SMS due to financial hardship as a result of this crisis.

Finally, I would like to ask for your continued loyalty and trust in this process. I have no intentions of releasing any of our team members before the end of the school year. With that being said, know that we still have all the responsibilities of any business within our community.

Below is a link of the Stations of the Cross that we put together as a team. Each teacher put their own touch on it to make it special for the students. I thought you would enjoy it as well. Many thanks to Miss Studerus for organizing it and Ms. Rivera for playing her beautiful harp as the background music. Please let me know if you have difficulty opening it and I will send it to a different way.

<https://youtu.be/sGhuscMMOAE>

Respectfully,

R. Maestas-Sanchez, St. Mary's Albuquerque, Principal