



ARCHDIOCESE OF WASHINGTON

Archdiocesan Pastoral Center: 5001 Eastern Avenue, Hyattsville, MD 20782-3447
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March 27, 2020

Dear Parents and Guardians:

These are very difficult times. However, more than ever, we are blessed to be a part of a faith-based school community. We are free to call on our savior, Jesus Christ, to help us get through. And, we will get through. On the other side of this, we will all rejoice that we had this opportunity to serve God's children.

As we continue to battle this ongoing crisis, the Archdiocese of Washington is working hard to make the "right" decisions that are in the best interests of our students, families, staff, and administrators. Our priority is the health and safety of all who are in our school communities. Public officials have announced the closure of school until April 24, 2020. In compliance with this order, archdiocesan schools' campuses are closed. We are monitoring the circumstances and communicating with our schools, on a daily basis. As part of our decision-making, we are considering government mandates, guidance from public health officials, school policies and the community needs.

The education and continued service to our students remains at the forefront for all classroom teachers and administrators. Although, there may be a campus closure, the learning for all students continues through distance learning at all archdiocesan schools. During the first two weeks of the campus closure, archdiocesan schools implemented Phase 1 of distance learning for students. Archdiocesan schools are preparing and lesson planning for Phase 2, to ensure satisfactory academic progress for all students in accordance with archdiocesan academic standards. In addition, schools are committed to serving students in regards to their spiritual needs. We are committed to providing opportunities for students to pray, worship and learn about the Catholic faith. Principals will provide additional information to you about the distance learning and faith formation plan at your school.

Barring an insurmountable escalation, we will achieve this goal. With this in mind, the fulfilment of tuition obligations to your school is expected. I understand that there are certain programs that depend on the campus being open. The fees associated with these programs are being reviewed at the school level.

The pandemic is creating tremendous hardship on our schools and many of our families. The Archdiocese of Washington and school pastors will work with families that have been financially impacted by this pandemic. Please contact your pastor or principal to discuss your circumstances in order to determine the best way to proceed. I recognize that the pandemic has had an impact on everyone to varying degrees. For those of you who are in a position to provide additional monetary support and resources to our schools, I urge you to do so, and thank you in advance for your generosity.

Parents and Guardians
Page Two
March 27, 2020

Please look forward to steady and consistent communication from your school. We will keep you apprised of new information, as it becomes available. Working together as a community, we will make it through this difficult time. In closing, thank you for the expressions of support and encouragement that families have provided to school administrators, teachers and staff. They are a source of inspiration and motivation. Each day, know that you are in my prayers, and that of my entire team.

Sincerely in Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "William H. Ryan, III". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

William H. Ryan, III
Secretary for Catholic Schools