



DIOCESE OF WORCESTER CATHOLIC SCHOOLS OFFICE

49 ELM STREET
WORCESTER, MASSACHUSETTS 01609

March 25, 2020

Dear parents/guardians,

I hope this communication finds you and your family healthy and adapting well to the changes that are now required in the extraordinary times of the COVID-19 pandemic.

I wish to thank you for your flexibility and helpfulness in accommodating the needs of your children in preparing them to access the virtual education being provided by Catholic schools over the last ten days. In early March, when school leaders in the Diocese first began preparing for the possibility that remote learning might become a necessity, we had no idea that we would be implementing our plans in just a few weeks. While there have been challenges, I am extremely proud of our school leaders, teachers and support staff in coming together so quickly to make sure that our children continue to grow academically and spiritually despite not being able to attend school in person.

During this period, school leaders from across the Diocese have been meeting regularly to collaborate and share best practices as well as to troubleshoot where necessary. We will continue to do so. We remain committed in our desire to provide a high quality Catholic education regardless of whether “school” takes place in a building or at your homes. In the event that school buildings are not able to open in the weeks ahead, we will be prepared to continue with remote learning, and we will work together to improve virtual educational services so that we can better meet the needs of students and families. If you feel that your child’s experience over the last ten days could be improved, I encourage you to reach out to your child’s principal with your ideas and feedback.

The timing of the pandemic has also likely created challenges for families in planning for the 2020-21 school year. We, therefore, would like to be as flexible as possible. As such, we have made some adjustments to the previously published Diocesan financial aid deadlines as follows:

	Previous timeline	New timeline
Diocesan-wide deadline to submit a financial aid application through FACTS Grant & Aid Assessment:	Friday March 27	Friday April 17
Diocesan-wide award decisions sent to parents:	week of Monday, April 20, 2020	week of Monday, May 11, 2020

Please follow the instructions that were included in your child's acceptance packet from the school to complete and submit your financial aid application through FACTS Grant & Aid Assessment. As always, completing a financial aid application does not commit you to an enrollment decision. Rather, it

will provide you with a sense of the availability of Diocesan financial support for your planning purposes. All previously submitted financial aid application materials will be held for review and follow the newly established timelines. If you have questions, you can contact the Parents Customer Service number at FACTS at 1-866-441-4637 for all inquiries pertaining to the FACTS Grant & Aid Assessment financial aid application or the FACTS tuition payment plan. Diocesan Director of Student Financial Services, Susan Saucier, can also be reached via-email at ssaucier@worcesterdiocese.org.

Let us keep each other in prayer during this time.

All God's Blessings,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "David Perda".

David Perda, Ph. D.
Superintendent of Schools