



March 14, 2020

Dear St. Francis Catholic School Community,

Thank you for your kind words of encouragement and understanding as we embark on Distance Learning. The faculty, staff, and administration will do our best to communicate and to keep the students engaged.

Our school has two emergency days built into the annual calendar (often referred to as "snow days"). Traditionally, when we exceed these emergency days we add instructional days onto the end of the school year and extend into summer. Due to the unprecedented situation we find ourselves in, the Archdiocese of Portland, Oregon, has approved the use of Distance Learning Days to be implemented for elementary schools, which may avoid a need to extend the school year and help our students to maintain their skills during an extended break from school. With that said, the teachers and I will meet on Monday, March 16, an allotted emergency closure day, to finalize our plans for Distance Learning and communicate those plans to parents.

### **Timeline of Events/Learning**

- Tuesday, March 17-March 20 will be Distance Learning Days for students. Teachers will contact their classes with more information prior to Tuesday.
- March 23-27 spring break, NO school work - No Distance Learning
- March 30 and 31 will be Distance Learning Days. The teachers and I will meet on Tuesday, March 31 to prepare for students' return (we will meet in the Parish Hall – read below)
- At the present time we will return to school on Wednesday, April 1. Report cards will be sent as scheduled, March 20
- I will update our community if there are any changes to this timeline

**The school will be completely closed from March 17 to March 31. The Archdiocese of Portland, Oregon, has mandated all schools to be closed for 2 weeks after sanitation. This means NO gym use, NO entrance into school by faculty, staff, RE, etc. Also, the music and art rooms will be sanitized and NO ONE is allowed entrance until April 1.**

As public health agencies explain, this preventative measure is intended to help slow the rate and speed of COVID-19, and flattening the curve of the virus' impact on our community and health care systems.

Please know I understand the impact in arranging childcare for your children and needing to maintain your current responsibilities at home and work. As a Catholic community please continue to pray and to be there for one another. The teachers have done a remarkable job in preparing for Distance Learning and working together. I am very thankful to have them! They

will help the children and you through these next few weeks. Please do not hesitate to reach out to me with any questions. I will continue to update you with additional information as it is learned.

Sincerely,  
Denise Gonzalez  
Principal