



*Diocese of Knoxville Catholic Schools: Preparing Scholars, Leaders, and Saints*

## **Diocese of Knoxville Catholic Schools – At-Home Learning FAQ**

Friday, March 20, 2020

805 S. Northshore Drive  
Knoxville, TN 37919

Dear Catholic School Families,

We understand that the COVID-19 crisis has placed us in a moment of uncertainty and has caused unprecedented changes to family life. Many families may be struggling to make ends meet as businesses cut hours or shut down altogether. Others are facing child care challenges as our schools close. All of us are experiencing the cancellation of public Masses and the potential long-term isolation of social distancing.

This moment in history will be etched in our children's memories for the rest of their lives - the way 9/11 is for the rest of us. Let us, as much as possible, give those memories a positive spin - the way we remember the fear and destruction of 9/11, but also the heroism and unity that followed. We will all be spending a lot more time with our children and our families. Let us take advantage of this, embrace the challenge, and make sure that it is quality time. Romans 8:28 assures us "*that all things work for good for those who love God, who are called according to His purpose.*"

### **At-Home Learning FAQs**

**Q: Will these "at-home learning days" count as school days?**

A: Yes. At-home learning, also known as remote learning days, will count as actual school days and will not need to be made up later in the year.

**Q: When will the "at-home learning days" begin?**

A: Due to the staggered spring break schedules, at-home learning will begin for Chattanooga area Catholic Schools on Wednesday, March 18, 2020. Schools in the Knoxville region and St. Mary's in Johnson City will begin at-home instruction on Monday, March 23, 2020. St. Dominic Catholic School will begin at-home learning on Monday, March 30, 2020. Please refer to your individual school's communication concerning procedures and format.

**Q: When will the "at-home learning days" end?**

A: As of today, at-home learning days will continue on each regularly scheduled school day through **Easter Monday, April 13th**. Schools will remain closed as long as necessary to halt the spread of Coronavirus. The decision to reopen schools will be evaluated in consultation with state and local health officials.

**Q: How will parents know what assignments students should complete?**

A: The method of communicating lessons and assignments will vary by school and by grade level. Teachers will communicate assignments via written instructions, email, and online learning resources like Google Classroom, Moodle, etc.

**Q: How will students “turn in” assignments for grading?**

A: This will also vary by school and grade level. When possible, parents can take photos of or scan completed work and email them to teachers. If this is not possible, packets of student work may also be turned in at the end of the school closure period. Students using Google Classroom or Moodle will submit assignments electronically.

**Q: What do we do if we need help from a teacher?**

A: Teachers will be available via email from 9:00 am - 12:00 noon on regularly scheduled school days for any questions.

**Q: Can we come to the school for help?**

A: Individual schools will communicate times when families may pick up additional instructional materials or tools (like Chromebooks). However, during the closure, schools are required to minimize entry.

**Q: Will schools be providing lunches to families in need?**

A: This will vary by school. Cafeteria staff are working out a plan to provide assistance to families that rely on free & reduced lunches. Please refer to your individual school's communication regarding lunch assistance.

**Q: Will families be refunded for a month's worth of tuition?**

A: Since our schools will still be providing instructional services, tuition payments are still expected. However, schools are always responsive to individual family needs and extenuating circumstances that impact the ability to pay for tuition and other school-related expenses. If families need assistance, please contact your school's principal and/or pastor directly and they will make every effort to work with each family.

**Q: When will sports begin again?**

A: At this time, all spring athletics are cancelled until April 13, 2020. All extra-curricular activities, sports, and school events are cancelled for the duration of the school closure. Determinations about extracurricular or athletic fees will be determined by each School.