



The Bemidji Catholic Community

St. Philip's School

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MEMO

To: St. Philip's School Parents and Families

From: Pastor Fr. Chuck Huck and Principal Jana Norgaard, in cooperation with Office of Catholic Schools Director Andrew Hilliker, Minnesota Department of Education and ISD31

Date: March 15, 2020

RE: Coronavirus (COVID-19) and school closures

Dear Families,

Today, Governor Tim Walz and Education Commissioner Mary Cathryn Ricker announced all Minnesota public schools will close to students starting Wednesday, March 18, 2020 with the plan to resume instruction, in some form, Monday, March 30, 2020. We know you are receiving information from many sources. We will try to be as succinct as possible. Please know, since we are using multiple communication channels, you may receive duplicate messages. We apologize for any inconvenience.

- **St. Philip's School will be open as usual March 16-17.**
- Students should plan to bring home all materials they have on campus on Tuesday.
- During the school closure for students, St. Philip's School will join ISD-31, school districts and charter schools across the state to create plans to equitably distribute *distance learning to our students.
- We will be sending a survey to families to help us plan what distance learning will "look like" for St. Philip's. Please answer promptly.
- Starting March 30, 2020, per the instruction from the Minnesota Department of Education, student learning, in some form, will continue for the rest of the school year.
- Once our distance learning plan is finalized, we will communicate the plan to families via email and any other means necessary. If your contact information has changed (phone number, email, etc.) it is vital that you let us know. Call the School Office at 218-444-4938 or email sglen1@stphilipsbemidji.org.
- Non-essential activities and programs on campus will be canceled. If you have questions about a program or activity, please call the Parish Office at 218-444-4262.

As always, our priority is the safety and well-being of our students. We also want to ensure every child has access to the education they need and deserve.

We recognize that this is an unprecedented and dynamic situation. We will communicate as decisions are made and new information is available. We ask for your patience and prayers for our community as we navigate this challenge together.

**The Minnesota Department of Education is defining distance learning to mean that students receive daily interaction with their licensed teachers and appropriate educational materials.*

"St. Philip's Catholic School is one of the valued ministries of St. Philip's Parish, Bemidji, Minnesota. Our mission is to provide a quality Christian and academic education to the students entrusted to our care, preparing them to succeed in our diverse and changing world."