



St. James School

Excellent Minds. Exceptional Hearts.

Dear Parents and Guardians:

We recognize that recent national news regarding the Coronavirus (COVID-19) may be confusing and worrisome. Please know that North Hills Regional Catholic Elementary Schools have been closely monitoring this situation for the past few weeks and stands ready to implement any specific guidance received by local or national health officials. It is always our mission to put the spiritual, physical, and emotional well-being of our students, families, and staff at the forefront at all times. At this time there are NO confirmed cases of COVID-19 in Pennsylvania. We would like to remind parents that we have an All-Hazards plan in place to deal with various forms of hazards. If a student or staff member shows respiratory symptoms, we will follow our current practices for handling respiratory illnesses, subject to any additional guidance forthcoming.

Our school has infectious disease protocols in place and has been taking steps, such as cleaning and disinfecting throughout the school, to minimize the spread of viruses and a variety of other illnesses. There are a number of steps that students, staff and community members can take to minimize the spread of all respiratory illnesses, including COVID-19, according to the state Department of Health:

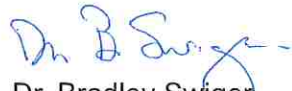
- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer that contains a minimum of 60% alcohol. Heavily soiled hands should be washed.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth with unwashed hands.
- Avoid close contact with people who are sick.
- Stay home when you are sick.
- Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue, then throw the tissue in the trash.
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces.

Additionally, it has been an active flu season. The best way to fight the flu is to get a flu shot. It is never too late to get a flu shot and ACHD urges residents to get their flu vaccination as soon as possible if they haven't already done so.

Flexible instruction day protocols will be used in the unlikely possibility of a temporary school closure due to quarantine. Please be assured that we will communicate information in a timely manner as soon as it becomes available to us.

Please visit the [Allegheny County Health Department](#), [Pennsylvania Department of Health](#) or [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention \(CDC\)](#) for additional information.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Dr. B. Swiger". The signature is written in a cursive style with a horizontal line extending to the right.

Dr. Bradley Swiger
Principal- Saint James School