



MOUNT CARMEL SCHOOL

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MCS COVID-19 Update #2

Dear Mount Carmel School Family,

We hope and pray that you are all safe and healthy and taking everything in stride as our entire community works together in responding to the spread of the novel coronavirus (COVID-19). Since our last update, there have been several developments, including more confirmed cases of COVID-19 on Guam, additional containment and mitigation efforts for Governor Ralph Torres's Executive Order No. 2020-04, and the CNMI Public School System (PSS) announcing that it has suspended face-to-face classes for the remainder of the school year. Mount Carmel School has been closely monitoring all of these developments and working with the Commonwealth Healthcare Corporation (CHCC) Public Health Emergency Preparedness Program, the Office of the Governor, and the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force. Based on all of this, please note the following updates, which are summarized in these bullet points:

- *Mount Carmel School will transition to online learning on March 30 for two weeks, tentatively resuming face-to-face classes on April 13.*
- *3rd quarter report cards will be distributed via email on Wednesday, April 1.*
- *Grab-and-Go Meals are available throughout the island for all children under 18 years old, including our students.*
- *All assemblies and student activities are suspended until further notice, but we are exploring all options for major school events.*
- *What can you do to help? Refer to the suggestions discussed below.*
- *Please be patient with us as this is a dynamic situation that changes everyday.*

ONLINE LEARNING UNTIL APRIL 13

On Monday, March 30, the school will begin transitioning all students towards online learning with a tentative goal of resuming face-to-face classes on Monday, April 13. Most of our teachers have been certified by the EdTech Cohort program and they recently participated in rigorous training to prepare them for this transition. And while our teachers are proficient in numerous online and digital learning tools and will use many of those tools in their online classes, the school has identified four primary tools that we will use for all students:

- Zoom
- Edmodo
- Achieve3000
- Khan Academy

To help you and your child prepare for these tools, please refer to the attached Parent Guide for Online Learning. Teachers will also provide more customized guides for their respective classes. Should you need any assistance with these tools, please contact our Office Manager, Leeani Villagomez, at mtcarmelschool.secretary@gmail.com.

Note that for online learning, students will participate in live (synchronous) sessions by following Wednesday and Thursday block schedules. The other days of the week will be used for asynchronous learning.

To ensure that students have the materials they need to engage in online learning, families may come to campus and their children's respective classrooms and/or lockers to pick up textbooks, personal items from lockers, and other resources according to this schedule:

Monday, March 30

7:30 am—9:00 am: K4, 6th Grade
9:00 am—10:30 am: K5, 7th Grade
10:30 am—12:00 noon: 1st Grade, 8th Grade
1:00 pm—2:30 pm: 2nd Grade, Freshmen

Tuesday, March 31

7:30 am—9:00 am: 3rd Grade, Sophomores
9:00 am—10:30 am: 4th Grade, Juniors
10:30 am—12:00 noon: 5th Grade, Seniors

Note that this schedule is staggered to ensure social distancing, so we ask that **when on campus, each family should:**

- ***limit campus presence to just one family member for the whole family,***
- ***maintain a distance of at least six feet from other families,***
- ***and wait your turn to get materials for your children.***

Homeroom teachers will be available to provide access to classrooms and lockers and school staff and administrators will be on hand to enforce social distancing measures. If a family wishes to pick up materials for students in multiple grade levels they may do so, as long they comply with social distancing protocols. If family cannot make it to campus for either of these days, please contact us to schedule an appointment.

Lastly, while we are preparing for this transition, there will be glitches and challenges along the way. We ask you for your patience and understanding as we do what we can to ensure that our students keep learning.

3RD QUARTER REPORT CARDS

On Wednesday, April 1, 3rd quarter report cards will be distributed via email from our student information management system, RenWeb FACTS. Report cards will be emailed to addresses registered with that system. If you do not receive the email please check your spam folder to make sure that the email was not inadvertently directed there. If you still have trouble accessing report cards, please contact our Office Manager, Leeani Villagomez, at mtcarmelschool.secretary@gmail.com.

GRAB-AND-GO MEALS

The CNMI Public School System Nutrition Program and the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force are providing free meals for all children of the CNMI (ages 18 and below), including students from our school. Please refer to the attached flyer for more information about the program.

STUDENT ACTIVITIES AND MAJOR EVENTS

To enforce social distancing, until further notice, all extra-curricular and co-curricular activities are suspended. However, we are exploring all possible options for major school events such as sacramental celebrations (First Holy Communion and Confirmation), induction ceremonies for honor societies, and commencement exercises. These options include, but are not limited to, postponing events until such time that public health officials determine it is safe to hold such events, broadcasting virtual events online, or holding events while following safety and social distancing protocols in such a way that public health officials determine is safe for attendees. As soon as the school determines what we will do, we will notify all students and their families. Please be patient as we explore alternatives to cancelling such important events in the lives of our students.

WHAT YOU CAN DO

This public health crisis calls on all of us to do what we can to keep our community safe. This is what you and your friends and family can do to help:

Stay calm and talk to your children. The situation is already distressing enough for children, and parents must remain calm and reassuring for their children. (Please refer to the following [resource from the National Association of School Psychologists](#) for guidance on how to talk with your children about this situation.)

Protect yourself. Wash your hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds especially after you have been in a public place, or after blowing your nose, coughing, or sneezing. If soap and water are not readily available, use a hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol. Cover all surfaces of your hands and rub them together until they feel dry. Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands. Clean AND disinfect frequently touched surfaces daily. This

includes tables, doorknobs, light switches, countertops, handles, desks, phones, keyboards, toilets, faucets, and sinks. If surfaces are dirty, clean them, using detergent or soap and water prior to disinfection.

Protect others. Stay home if you are sick, except to get medical care. Cover your mouth and nose with a tissue when you cough or sneeze or use the inside of your elbow. Throw used tissues in the trash. Immediately wash your hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. If soap and water are not readily available, clean your hands with a hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol. Wear a face mask **ONLY** if you are sick or are taking care of a sick person unable to wear a face mask.

Exercise social distancing. Protect yourself and others by minimizing contact with others. Since someone may carry COVID-19 without showing any symptoms, social interactions, especially among large crowds, may unintentionally spread the virus. Parents are thus asked to keep their children at home and refrain from letting them visit residences of friends or family or meet up with them in public.

Stay informed. The CHCC and the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) provide important resources and information that provide clear guidance on how all of us can get through this crisis. Follow these COVID-19 updates from the CHCC and CDC:

<https://www.chcc.gov.mp/coronavirusinformation.php>
<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-nCoV/index.html>

Pray. As a Catholic school, our faith must be the center of our lives, no matter what is happening in world. Students can pray devotional prayers appropriate for the season of Lent like the Holy Rosary and the Stations of the Cross. Also, everyone can follow daily masses from Mount Carmel Cathedral on the following Facebook page:

<https://www.facebook.com/pg/dioceseofchalankanoa/videos/>

DYNAMIC SITUATION

As this is a dynamic situation that changes on a daily basis, the future is uncertain and many questions still remain. The school's Leadership Team, guided by Bishop Ryan P. Jimenez and the school's Board of Directors, are making decisions based on the best and most accurate information available at any given time. Please be assured that no matter what we do, we will provide ample notification and information to all students, parents, teachers, and families via email, our website, all our social media outlets, and local media. In other words, you will definitely hear from us and know what to do.

These are challenging times, but we have survived devastating typhoons, economic recessions, and many other tragedies. With **FAITH** in our Lord, **HOPE** for a better tomorrow, and **LOVE** for each other, we will get through this together. We are **KNIGHT STRONG**. We are **MARIANAS STRONG**.

Our Lady of Mount Carmel...

Galvin Deleon Guerrero, EdD
President
Mount Carmel School, Inc.