



MOUNT CARMEL SCHOOL

Post Office Box 500006 • Saipan, MP 96950
670.234.6184 • 670.235.4751 (facsimile)
www.mountcarmelsaipan.com • www.facebook.com/mtcarmelcnmi

MCS COVID-19 Update #8

Dear Mount Carmel School Family,

Months into this pandemic and we are now just days away from the end of the school year. It's amazing how time flies. With so much happening, we wanted to share some important updates with the entire school family, all of which are summarized in these bullet points followed by a more detailed set of announcements.

- *Governor Ralph Torres has renewed the declaration of a public health emergency for the CNMI.*
- *Most major year-end school events are now postponed until late July or early August.*
- *End of Year Awards Ceremony will proceed as a virtual event; students must complete online form for their recognition.*
- *Students are to schedule campus visits to return school items and retrieve personal items as part of year-end clearance procedures.*
- *We are working on plans to safely reopen for the 2020-2021 school year, for which the Early Bird Registration deadline is extended.*
- *Free COVID-19 community-based testing continues to be available.*
- *Please note these resources to help you and your loved ones through this crisis.*
- *Campus still closed until further notice.*
- *Help us help you by contacting appropriate school officials if you or your child needs support.*
- *How can you help? Follow the guidelines below.*
- *Please be patient with us as this is a dynamic situation that changes everyday.*

GOVERNOR RENEWS DECLARATION OF PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY

Last week, Governor Torres issued [Executive Order 2020-10](#), which renewed the declaration of state of public health emergency and includes the continuation of several directives and guidelines for mitigation and containment of COVID-19 as set forth in Executive Orders 2020-04 and 2020-07. In particular, note the following:

- *Gatherings of more than 10 people in a single room or single space are prohibited at the same time for social, spiritual and recreational activities, including but not limited to, community, civic, public leisure, faith-based, or*

- sporting events, parades, concerts, festivals, fiestas, conventions, fundraisers and similar activities are prohibited throughout the CNMI.
- All public beaches and pathways are closed to all activities except for individual use for purposes of exercise and wellness, both physical and mental, and shoreline subsistence fishing such as talåya and rod and reel, subject to social distancing requirements.
 - The CNMI Government strongly recommends social distancing of at least six feet whenever possible and reasonable.
 - A public curfew for all individuals, except for authorized officials, remains in effect from 10:00 p. m. to 5:00 a. m. However, businesses that have facilities open to the general public shall only be open to the public from 6:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m and must follow strict safety and health guidelines set forth by the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force. Outside of those hours, businesses may operate but may not be open to the general public.
 - Currently, most government office are open for a half day. Starting on May 24, government offices will open during regular working hours, with social distancing measures in place.

MOST MAJOR YEAR-END EVENTS POSTPONED UNTIL LATE JULY/EARLY AUGUST

With the continuation of social distancing guidelines set forth in Executive Order 2020-10 and related amendments, Mount Carmel School has decided to postpone most year-end events until late July or early August. These events include induction ceremonies for honor societies, First Holy Communion, Confirmation, the baccalaureate mass, and commencement exercises. How these events will be held in August will be determined as follows:

Option 1: All events will be held before/at the beginning of next school year. By mid-July, should the Office of the Governor, the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force, and the CHCC determine that it is safe enough to lift social distancing directives that prohibit public gatherings, the school will reschedule all major events for the week before and during the first week of the 2020-2021 school year, July 27 through August 7.

Option 2: All events will be held online before/at the beginning of next school year. By mid-July, should the Office of the Governor, the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force, and the CHCC determine that it is NOT safe enough to lift social distancing directives that prohibit public gatherings, the school will reschedule all major events for the week before and during the first week of the 2020-2021 school year, July 27 through August 7 and hold these events as virtual events online, with live video streaming on the school's Facebook page and YouTube channel.

As decisions are made about which option to follow, a detailed schedule of events will be published.

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While most year-end events have been postponed until late July or early August, our success with recent virtual events, such as Teacher Appreciation Week, Spirit Week, and the Virtual Pep Rally, has positioned the school to host some events virtually. Specifically, we will hold a ***Virtual End of Year Awards Ceremony on Friday, June 5, at 10:00 a. m.*** with live video streaming on the school's Facebook page and YouTube channel.

To help us prepare for this awards ceremony and ensure that students are recognized for all that they have accomplished this year, please work with your child(ren) to complete the respective forms at the following links:

- [Elementary Recognition & Awards Form](#)
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The deadline for completing these forms is Wednesday, May 27, at 5:00 pm. Please note that this is a very firm deadline that is NOT flexible. We need time to prepare certificates and videos for the virtual awards ceremony.

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With the end of the year upon us, it is also time for annual clearance procedures. To ensure social distancing while also easing the clearance process for students, we are requiring students to schedule a time to visit campus to return school-issued materials, like textbooks and calculators, and also retrieve any personal items for their respective classrooms and/or lockers. To schedule a time for this clearance process, please contact the following:

- Kindergarten—5th Grades: Priscilla Dela Cruz at presdelacruz@gmail.com
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We understand that this pandemic has disrupted many aspects of our lives, which may affect students' ability to locate and return school-issued materials. We will thus exercise as much flexibility, understanding, and discretion in working with students on clearance procedures.

2020-2021 SCHOOL YEAR

As announced previously, the Early Bird Registration Discount of \$200 per child (normally \$400) deadline, originally set for May 2, is being extended until June 5. To

apply online, simply access the [admissions link](#) on our school website, mountcarmelsaipan.com, and follow the instructions posted.

The first day of the 2020-2021 school year will be Thursday, August 6. Whether we resume face-to-face classes or continue with online learning will depend entirely on the Office of the Governor, the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force, and the CHCC determining that it is safe enough to lift social distancing directives that prohibit public gatherings.

In the meantime, school officials will work throughout the summer to ensure that the campus and classrooms will be safe for everyone should face-to-face classes resume. This will include retrofitting campus facilities to protect students and employees, equipping school personnel with appropriate personal protective equipment, training faculty and staff in mitigation and response protocols, exploring various options to hold face-to-face sessions while maintaining social distancing, and updating our standard operating procedures to align with best practices in health and medicine.

FREE COVID-19 COMMUNITY-BASED TESTING CONTINUES

Free COVID-19 testing available for anyone in the community. To participate in the community testing, please follow these steps:

- Step 1: Request a test online at <https://governor.gov.mp/covid-19/testing/form/> or by calling any of the numbers in the attached guide.
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For more information on this community-based COVID-19 testing, please refer to the attached guide.

RESOURCES TO HELP YOU THROUGH THIS CRISIS

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In addition to these resources, the Northern Mariana Islands Coalition Against Domestic and Sexual Violence advises that, during this time, survivors may be forced to be isolated with or near their abuser putting them more at risk of harm. Even though we are all practicing social distancing, help is still available for victims and survivors in the CNMI. If you need emergency assistance, please call 911. If you or someone you know is experiencing violence or abuse, you can call to speak to advocates and other service providers at: Karidat’s 24/7 Victim Hotline at (670) 234-5100 DCCA Division of Youth Services at (670) 287-1773, (670) 285-2780 or (670) 285-2781, and the CNMI Family Court at (670) 783-7825.

Lastly, the school is assembling an Emergency Food Pantry for members of our school family that are in need. If you or someone you know is facing a food shortage in your home, or if you would like to contribute to the pantry, please contact us at galvin.deleonguerrero@gmail.com. We pledge to protect the privacy and confidentiality of all involved and will provide assistance with the utmost discretion.

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The campus will be closed down with gates closed all day until further notice. Only authorized employees and officials will be granted access as needed. Financial and academic transactions can still be conducted online or via email. For financial transactions, email Business Manager John Blanco at mtcarmelknights@gmail.com. For academic transactions, contact Office Manager Leeani Villagomez at mtcarmelschool.secretary@gmail.com.

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Vice Principal Bobby Baldazo: bsbmtcarmel@gmail.com

Spiritual Health

Campus Minister Vir Abueme: abuemevir@gmail.com

Social/Emotional Health

Counselor Tobed Smith: tobeds@gmail.com

Registrar and Digital Tools

Office Manager Leeani Villagomez: mtcarmelschool.secretary@gmail.com

Financial Transactions

Business Manager John Blanco: mtcarmelknights@gmail.com

Media and Communications

Director of Institutional Development Victoria Deleon

Guerrero: v.dlquerrero95@gmail.com

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 Healthy: 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.

Stay Home: 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.

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<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**. To see a great example of this strength and spirit, check out some recent school videos at the following links:

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President

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