

Dear St. Vincent de Paul Families,

It feels good to be in February of 2021 and look back on the last few months of school, knowing our school community is healthy and thriving. Thank you for an awesome Catholic Schools Week celebration last week. I believe it was the most spirited in regards to the participation in dressing up that I have seen in a few years. So fun! Thank you to our rockin' Student Council leadership for all their great planning. We have also officially completed our Winter MAP testing session, the standardized testing we use for 1st-8th grades. Below are a few middle school math data highlights:

- *5th Grade Math:*
 - 50% of students scored High Average or better.
 - 90% of students improved their RIT score from Fall to Winter.
- *6th Grade Math:*
 - 73% of students scored above the national average.
- *7th Grade Math:*
 - Students significantly outperformed the national growth average in Algebra.
 - 91% of students scored above the national average.
- *8th Grade Math:*
 - Students significantly outperformed the national growth average in Geometry & Measurement.
 - 93% of students scored above the national average.

**Stay tuned for more good news about our 1st-4th graders. We are so proud of our Royals and look forward to sharing updates with you at conferences.

Now for a significant update; I am writing to you today to notify you of an important calendar change for this school year. **The last day of school will now be May 28th.** As you know, when we began the year back in September, we planned in phases, and had goals of succeeding with in-person learning a month at a time. Now, six months later, we know from our pulse on the social/emotional wellness of our students as well as the classroom assessments and standardized testing data that consistent in-person learning has benefited our students and fostered great progress. Thank you for your continued partnership in keeping our school safe during this pandemic.

We did pivot to Distance Learning after Christmas Break, anticipating that some families would be gathering outside of their immediate households to celebrate the holiday. It was a great week, but knowing we would be back in the building helped make it better. Looking ahead to Spring Break in March, we will not be doing a week of Distance Learning the follow week, April 6th-9th. It is important to offer in-person learning to the students who are not traveling over Spring Break. We ask that you remain diligent in keeping children home for 5 days after travel

and planning for a return after a negative COVID test. Please communicate any requests for work at home for the week after Spring Break with your child's teacher, if quarantining. It will be up to their discretion how much Remote Learning is accessible, dependent also on how many students are in the classroom and how many are out. Thank you for understanding the incredible efforts it takes to plan and accommodate during these times. Please [click here to see our travel guidance](#).

We anticipate continued consistent days of in-person learning until the end of the school year. Our teachers have all mapped out their curriculum and remaining standards to be taught, and have concluded that all content will be covered by the end of May. As you know, many end of the year school events occur in May/June during a typical school year, including field trips, band and orchestra concerts, award ceremonies, Track and Field Day, and other assemblies/gatherings. This year, due to COVID-19 precautions, we are not taking the usual time out of classrooms for most of these events. Because of that, the teachers have completed more content ahead of schedule.

For these reasons, the decision has been made to end this school year on Friday, May 28th, not returning after Memorial Day. Please know that much time, research, reflection, and many discussions have occurred to arrive at this calendar change. **We look forward to celebrating our 8th graders at their Graduation on Wednesday, May 26th at 7pm.** This will be the 8th graders' last day of school.

Summer Care for our students going into first grade through sixth grade was scheduled to begin June 21st. Because of the new calendar update, Summer Care at SVDP will now begin on Monday, June 7th. [Click here for more information and to sign up for Summer Care](#).

My prayer is that this news is met with understanding but also doesn't provide a major hiccup to your child care planning. As a mom, I understand how changes can greatly impact your families. Please reach out if I can help in any way and know that this year has been an absolute blessing to all of us who work with your children every day.

Persevere!

Maggie Dawson

Principal, SVDP