



Dear Crusader Families,

I am grateful to our dedicated and flexible St. Monica community for all of the support that our school has been receiving in the last 24 hours as we navigate uncharted decision-making. While MISD decided to close down immediately, our leadership team and teachers have been continuing to follow CDC guidelines and we are working to continue monitoring the needs of our specific community of parents and students. To that end, we understand that the closing of our campus is inevitable I do not take the decision to close school lightly as I firmly believe that the best thing for our students is to be in the classroom. It's not just their academics that I'm concerned about but the sense of security children have that comes with a routine and school.

I have a meeting with the School Commission tonight to discuss what our long term closure plan would look like. I am not going to rush into a closure without a good plan in place. Given that none of us have been through this before, we are going to make the best plans possible but may need to adjust them. Some of the factors that I'm taking into consideration are:

1. Students benefit from being in school to learn and socialize and keep their routines as normal as possible.
2. Our school has a population of below 250 people and are able to maintain social distancing since we will not be attending Mass, Stations of the Cross or assemblies together.
3. Our school staff members that have children can still work as their children attend St. Monica's and they will not need to take time off to be home.
4. Our families still need to work. Not all of our parents have jobs where they can work from home and as a school community, we want to support their need to work and also figure out childcare.

While my goal was to stay open as long as possible, I need to make the decision to close for at least two weeks beginning Monday, March 16th. Tentatively we will return to campus as a school community on Monday, March 30th. We will be re-assessing the health crisis throughout our school closure and notify you immediately if that were to change to a new model of distance learning or be extended. I ask that families start planning for childcare options and start looking at their family routines to best support their children in a remote learning environment. Potentially, we are also looking at the possibility of needing to cancel our Spring Concert and Middle School Drama performance based on when students are able to return to campus and proper rehearsal time required for preparation. All primary drama opportunities (Geology Rocks and Little Red Hen) will also look into rescheduling in the spring, if time allows. Thank you for your kind consideration and support in all of these changes.

Monday, March 16th: There are NO students allowed on campus and there will be a staff in-service day in preparation of our first week of remote learning and expectations.

Tuesday, March 17th: Families come to campus to retrieve textbooks, workbooks, reading books, computers, introductory packets, etc.:

- 9:00-9:30 Last name begins with A-C
- 9:30-10:00 Last name begins with D-F
- 10:00-10:30 Last name begins with G-I
- 10:30-11:00 Last name begins with J-L

- 11:00-11:30 Last name begins with M-O
- 11:30-12:00 Last name begins with P-R
- 1:00-1:30 Last name begins with S-U
- 1:30-2:00 Last name begins with V-X
- 2:00-2:30 Last name begins with Y-Z

Families are being asked to stagger arrival to ensure proper social distancing. If the school closure exceeds one week, families will be asked to come to school on each Monday, at the same times, to return finished work (unless they are turning it in electronically to their teacher) and possibly check out a new library book or pick-up the new weekly packet, supplies for projects, etc. depending on grade level.

Huge THANK YOU to our amazing faculty and staff for their extra energies, not only in keeping our school clean over the past couple of weeks but also in their extra efforts in pandemic planning this week. You are truly the best faculty and staff and I appreciate working with such fine people of faith and love.

Above all else, I ask you to pray. We must trust in God and not let fear rule our lives. There are two prayers that I want to suggest your family pray together.

Memorare ~ This simple prayer asks Mary for her intercession or help in addition to the guidance we receive from God.

Spiritual Communion prayer ~ This prayer is a beautiful way to express to God your desire to be with him when we are unable to receive Him in Holy Communion.

In Christ,

Marybeth Bohm