



Dear Crusader Families,

**Update: St. Monica Catholic School will be closed for on-campus classes starting Monday, March 16 thru Friday, April 24 (not 3/27 as previously stated).**

We continue to be grateful to our dedicated and flexible St. Monica community for all the support that our school has been receiving in the last days as we navigate uncharted decision-making.

With everything changing by the day / hour / minute, it is very difficult to keep the information accurate or timely. I appreciate your patience with me in my stream of consciousness emails. Between the temporary cancellation of Masses - to Mercer Island School District closing – to my announcement of two weeks closed – to the Governor mandating all schools remain closed through April 24. I know my head has been spinning. Although Easter break falls within this break, it is still five weeks of learning that is now having to take place differently for us all. Thank you, parents and families, for your constant support as we take a new road in this educational journey for your children.

We realize this unprecedented move will be a hardship on families whose parent(s) aren't able to telecommute for work, and we hope you'll be able to find supervision for your children for this unexpected closure of school. In order to try and minimize the loss of in class academic learning **our teachers have created a plan for remote learning for their students' families starting this coming Wednesday, March 18.**

Sadly, this break from school is not a vacation where you and the kids typically would go have fun at lots of public places. It is time when we will need to work together to ensure your child's academic learning continues to progress and flourish. Our teachers are hard at work creating plans with the hope that your children will be able to remain somewhat independent in this endeavor as you are also having to work from home and don't have the time to be the classroom teacher.

**Since today was our last day of school for a while** we have had students bring home their consumable workbooks, (English and Religion), their math books, their math / science notebooks (if they have them), their art supplies, etc. to use during this six-week closure in order to complete their remote lessons. Remote learning lessons and assignments will start on Wednesday and continue throughout the duration of our closure.

Teachers will begin planning these lessons this Monday and Tuesday, with some grade levels incorporating technology and live-streaming classes, while other grade levels sending taped lessons and resources to continue the learning at home. These assignments will be incorporated into your child's 3<sup>rd</sup> trimester grades.

**Tuesday evening or Wednesday morning, your children's teachers will be contacting you with the first assignments of many to come.** (Note that grade 6/7/8, teachers may be contacting your child directly through Microsoft Teams, so please have your middle school student check on Tuesday/Wednesday for their first assignment and schedule of live classes.)

**Classrooms will be open on Tuesday, March 17, 8 a.m. - 3 p.m.** We realize students may forget to bring home everything needed or may have been absent. The teachers will be here to make sure the proper books and supplies are brought home. We ask that families come to school during this timeframe to pick-up:

- Items left in lockers/desks
- Needed supplies
- Hard copy assignments (This will mainly be in grade K-4.)
- Math manipulatives
- Laptop devices that will be checked out

- PE uniforms, lunch boxes, sweatshirts

**If possible, we will continue a periodic drop-off/pick-up plan with the school being accessible on pre-assigned days over the six weeks, most likely the Mondays.** I will be communicating with you on an ongoing basis during March and April. Teachers will be communicating too, but for now, please don't contact them until Tuesday with questions regarding schedules and expectations as they have not all been finalized. They will be extremely busy tomorrow through Monday working on 2nd trimester report cards and starting to plan online-lessons.

Whereas the continuation of academic learning might need the help of the teachers, it's up to you parents to keep the faith learning going. Your child starts every school day with prayer and typically incorporates some reading from Scripture. Please make these habits continue during our six-week break.

Finally, we are obviously needing to adjust our calendar - cancel or postpone events and extra-curricular activities for the coming weeks. Here is a partial list of those:

1. ASC is closed while school is closed.
2. Chess Club and Martial Arts canceling Spring session.
3. Spring Concert- rescheduled to June 3rd.
5. The Auction has been rescheduled to May 30.
6. Little Red Hen Play in 1st grade - possibly to be rescheduled will keep you posted.
7. Geology Rocks Play in 2nd Grade - tentatively reschedule for mid-May.
8. Middle School Play - drama performance canceled

In Christ,

Marybeth Bohm  
Principal