



ARCHDIOCESE OF WASHINGTON

Archdiocesan Pastoral Center: 5001 Eastern Avenue, Hyattsville, MD 20782-3447
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April 24, 2020

Dear Parents and Guardians:

During difficult times, our Savior, Jesus Christ, calls out the best in all of us. During the crisis our school communities have continued to flourish thanks to our school leaders, teachers, parents and students. I applaud all of our school communities for supporting this new distance-learning environment. More than ever, we are blessed to be a part of such a strong faith-based school community.

As we continue to battle this ongoing crisis, the Archdiocese of Washington (ADW) is working hard to make the “right” decisions that are in the best interests of our students, families, staff, and administrators. Our priority is the health and safety of all who are in our school communities. Public officials have announced the closure of school until May 15. In compliance with this order, archdiocesan school campuses, in Maryland, are closed through the May 15. We are monitoring the circumstances and communicating with our schools, on a daily basis. As part of our decision-making, we are considering government mandates, guidance from public health officials, school policies and the community needs.

ADW Catholic schools will begin Phase 3 of our Distance Learning Plan on April 27, 2020. Our schools will continue to provide spiritual development and academic instruction through distance learning. During Phase 3, teachers will develop focused plans for each grade and content area. These plans will include selecting critical standards, developing engaging learning opportunities aligned with these standards, and providing creative ways to assess these critical standards.

Grading procedures in Phase 3 of our Distance Learning Plan will look slightly different in the fourth grading quarter (Quarter 4). For students in preK-grade 3 using standards-based assessments, teachers will use the regular progress reporting tool on the ADW report card. However, an option for an *Incomplete (I)* will be available for situations where accessibility issues impact the student’s ability to complete work. For grades 4-8, students will receive a *Pass (P)*, if the standard is met or an *Incomplete (I)*, if work needs to be resubmitted. Final grades will be calculated by taking into consideration grades from Quarters 1-3 and the quality of work during Quarter 4. Finally, for our eighth grade students, we are working with school leaders to identify creative ways to celebrate the success and accomplishments of the Class of 2020.

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Please look forward to steady and consistent communication from your school. We will keep you apprised of new information as it becomes available. Working together as a community, we will make it through this difficult time.

In closing, thank you for the expressions of support and encouragement that families have offered to school administrators, teachers and staff. They are a source of inspiration and motivation. Each day, know that you are in my prayers, and that of my entire team.

Sincerely in Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'William H. Ryan, III', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

William H. Ryan, III
Secretary for Catholic Schools