

St. JOSEPH'S REGIONAL CATHOLIC SCHOOL

2019 National Blue Ribbon School for Academic Excellence

Dr. Janine Bertolotti, Principal

Dear Parents,

Although campuses are closed, St. Joseph's continues to be open by providing spiritual development and academic instruction. The Archdiocese of Washington Catholic Schools Office (CSO) has provided guidance to support Distance Learning since March 16, 2020. Guidance has been provided through different Phases. The first Phase was developed for the initial 2 weeks of closure in order to continue learning through instruction and enrichment. On March 30, the CSO launched Phase 2 of Distance Learning that ensured regular instruction and assessment by the classroom teacher. In addition, Phase 2 outlined guidelines and recommendations per grade level as well as on-going professional development opportunities for teachers.

Phase 3 will be implemented beginning April 27, 2020. During this phase, the focus will be on critical standards. Each teacher will identify the most important standards to cover before the school year ends. The list will be shared with me. This approach will provide focused instruction and assessment on those priority standards. Teachers will score assessments in the following ways:

- Met - the standard was achieved
- Revise - assessment needs to be resubmitted
- Incomplete – work was not submitted

Teachers will reach out to students receiving an Incomplete to determine if additional supports are needed to complete the assessment and meet the standard.

Standardized testing scheduled for Spring 2020 has been cancelled. This includes Scantron testing in reading, math, and science as well as the Faith Knowledge Assessment.

Grade reporting for Quarter 4 will be slightly different. For Grades PreK-3, the regular progress reporting tool on the report card will be used. However, teachers will enter an "I" for Incomplete work. This will be used if the student had accessibility issues that didn't allow him/her to complete assessments. For Grades 4-8, students will receive either a "P" for Pass or an "I" for Incomplete. Final grades will be calculated by the teacher based on the first three quarters and the quality of work during Quarter 4.

Finally, our campus closure should not take away the memory our 8th grade students have dreamed of for so many years. We are investigating ways to celebrate graduation and other 8th grade events. While it may look different for our Class of 2020, we still plan to rejoice as a school community and celebrate the accomplishments of our 8th grade students. More details will be provided at a later date.

As always, please do not hesitate to contact me with any comments or concerns. You and your families are in our continued prayers.

In Christ,
Dr. Janine Bertolotti