

March 12, 2020

ASCENSION

Dear Ascension Families,

Coronavirus has made its way to Minnesota since our last update to you, and we want to again assure you that keeping your children safe is our No. 1 priority. We are taking several important steps at this time.

We are continually monitoring the latest news and recommendations of the Minnesota Department of Health (www.health.state.mn.us) and the federal Centers for Disease Control (www.CDC.gov). We encourage you to join us in focusing on information coming from these sources. We are also in contact with the Archdiocese of Minneapolis and St. Paul and the Minnesota Independent School Forum. We continue to track and follow up on all scholar absences.

We have asked teachers to make sure scholars wash hands before lunch and as needed. There are hand sanitizer stations in the school and the cafeteria. All classes have been asked to clean desks at the end of each day with antiseptic wipes. Our plant manager assures us that we are using appropriate chemicals and cleaning protocols to disinfect surfaces such as door handles, bathroom fixtures and drinking fountains.

We hope and pray that there will not be a widespread outbreak that makes it necessary to close our school, but we have begun planning just in case. We ask you to do the same. Develop a plan for childcare; who could take care of your children if school closed for two weeks or more?

Given that we don't have resources for online teaching, we are developing materials to help parents ensure that their children don't lose ground academically. These will include:

- Learning packets will be sent home with the expectation that they will be completed during a possible shutdown.
- By the end of this week, you will receive log in and password information for all online learning platforms your children use at school. They can work through these lessons at home.
- Scholars will be required to check books out from our school and classroom libraries with the expectation that they will be read during a possible shutdown.

Please continue to take these common preventative actions:

- Keep your children home if they are sick.
- Encourage your children to avoid touching their eyes, nose and mouth.
- Cover coughs and sneezes with a tissue or the inside of your elbow.
- Disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces.

We will continue to keep you informed as the situation changes. Please feel free to call the school if you have questions.

Sincerely,



Benito Matias
Principal



Patty Stroman
Ascension Catholic Academy President