



## ***AN OPEN LETTER TO FRIENDS AND SUPPORTERS***

April 7, 2020

*Feast of St. John Baptiste de la Salle, Patron of Teachers*

Dear Friends,

Today is Holy Tuesday during this most unusual Lent and Holy Week. School hallways are empty. Students, staff, and families wait at home, absent the buzz of school and community life. We don't know when 'normal' returns, or what that will be. Still, God calls us to himself always, and He is with us in these strange days. Soon, the joy of resurrection will resound.

First and foremost, I hope this message finds you and your family in good health. During this period of isolation, know of our prayers for your well-being -- in every sense of the word. Be well.

Below, I provide you an update of school operations and adjustments in light of the mandatory public health closure.

### **Academics**

Teaching and learning continue -- virtually. We established full virtual school days just two days after Gov. Baker's initial school closure announcement. Structure and clear expectations, two things Catholic schools do well, are crucial in the current climate. Therefore, we require that students attend virtual classes daily and academic work counts. Now four weeks into this new mode, we see routines that maintain human connections, provide stability, and allow for achievement. It's not the same as in-person, to be sure. Yet we are maximizing 'school' under the current circumstances, thanks to our fast-working teachers, supportive families, and flexible students.

### **Sacramental Life and Faith Formation**

The school's robust sacramental and faith life continues remotely as well. Morning prayer is posted each day at 7:00 AM, Catholic theology courses continue apace, and students have joined the wider Catholic community in prayer opportunities with the Holy Father and Bishop da Cunha. On Holy Thursday, the entire school will attend the Stations of the Cross prayer, and on Easter Tuesday, likewise for the celebration of Holy Mass.

### **Activities**

Students, families, and staff have felt keenly the loss of treasured co-curricular activities. We are operating from the position that school will resume on May 4, 2020, when spring sports will conduct a curtailed season, "Kiss Me, Kate" will be staged in a truncated format, and school activities will proceed in an adjusted manner. Some events have been canceled, despite our best efforts.

## Financial Effects

### *2019-2020 Impact*

- As of this writing, only a handful of families are unable to meet their 2019-2020 tuition obligation. For these families, we are delaying payments until they are back at work.
- The "OddBall 2020 Gala Auction" has pivoted to an online-only format. Gratefully, event sponsors are honoring their commitment as we change format. While we believe the online format will succeed, it is also realistic to expect only a fraction of the expected \$100,000+ net proceeds.
- Annual Fund giving was ahead of last year at the time of the school closure order. However, gifts have slowed in the past month.

### *2020-2021 Impact*

Of greater long-term concern is the economic reversals experienced by faithful school families and the resulting uncertainty in committing to Catholic school next year. New student enrollment and current student re-enrollment have slowed since the closure announcement. Should the economic stoppage extend into the summer, the school will face a loss of tuition revenue.

## Going Forward

The school enjoys a strong reputation in the community and fierce loyalty from families. We know that "God provides." And, we realize that school life is just one aspect of a global challenge.

It is distinctly possible that in-person school will not resume on May 4 and that we may conclude the year remotely. While no one wishes for this, we will extend, adjust, and continue our current approach which values structure, connections, and the maximization of school life, despite remote constraints. Through faith, we know that "all will be well." I hope that you are, too.

Please contact me with your comments or questions. If there is anything we can do for you or yours, let me know directly.

Best regards,



Christopher W. Keavy  
President