

Subject: Important School/COVID Information

Date: Thursday, February 18, 2021



Dear Parents and Guardians,

As we near the end of the winter break week, we hope it has been a relaxing and safe week for you and your families. We know that for some it has not been an easy week.

Yesterday, we sent an email informing you of a few new COVID cases reported over the break. Today we learned of two more student cases – one in Grade 2 and one in Grade 4. After lengthy discussion this morning, Sr. Marlene and I have decided that it is best to be proactive for the safety and well-being of all. **Therefore, all students (PK-6) will remain home for instruction next week and participate in remote learning. Classes will resume in person on Monday, March 1.**

This is a decision we hoped never to have to make, but feel it is better to do this now with the break week as one of two weeks out. Next week at home is really a safety measure. We ask that every family practice all Department of Health safety recommendations while home so no one returns carrying the virus.

I am fully aware of the hardship this causes for you and for our teachers. This extra week home causes changes in lesson planning, family schedules, parents' workload, planned activities, and more. Next week is not an extended vacation, but a school week. Our office will notify the transportation offices of the various districts tomorrow regarding no busing next week.

After a Zoom meeting with teachers tomorrow, we will let you know about a pickup plan for Monday to get student books and materials. All students must check in each day with their teachers for attendance purposes and for lessons. Teachers will post lessons on their Google Classrooms and hold Zoom meetings daily. Each will let you know specific plans by the end of the weekend.

Sr. Marlene Pape remains in contact with the Monroe County Department of Health. Our maintenance staff have been doing a deep and thorough cleaning all this week and will do additional disinfecting next week. Our own safety protocols, which have worked well for the first semester, will remain in place:

- ✓ temperature checks upon entering the school
- ✓ random temperature checks in classrooms during the week
- ✓ staff screening each morning upon arrival
- ✓ social distancing everywhere
- ✓ masks worn at all times unless eating
- ✓ hand sanitizer used often in every room and office
- ✓ daily cleaning and sanitizing in all areas of the school, including classrooms, bathrooms, and offices
- ✓ electrostatic disinfecting spray in every area at the end of each day

We ask you for your continued help as we fight this invisible and unpredictable virus together. COVID is still very much around. We each need to do our part so we all stay safe:

- Practice handwashing regularly.
- Wear masks whenever you are outside of your home. Make sure your child has a tightly fitted mask covering nose, mouth, and chin.
- Practice social distancing when at a store, church, appointment, and so on.
- Limit your social interactions as best you can.
- Watch your child for any symptoms and connect with your health care provider if there are any.
- Let Sr. Marlene know at once if your child has been in contact with someone who had COVID or if your child has tested positive.
- Please let Sr. Marlene know if you have travelled over this break week.

Our school offices will be open next week from 8 a.m.–3:30 p.m. if you have questions related to your child's health, registration, or tuition.

Again, this is a step taken out of precaution. We do not want to get to the point of a spread that could close school for a longer period. This decision is a reminder to all of us that COVID is very much present in the county. We can keep the numbers low if we work together to minimize the risk of spread and exposure. We look forward to having everyone back on March 1.

Let us pray for those who are ill with COVID and their families. We pray for our children and staff for a successful second semester.

Peace and prayers!



Sr. Margaret Mancuso, SSJ
Principal