

Memo to: Parents and Guardians
Memo from: Sr. Margaret Mancuso
Date: March 31, 2020



Are you and your family doing all right? I do hope so, and I pray for you every day. I cannot tell you how much we miss the children and you, and how much the staff wishes we were all back together. This crisis period is our Lent, and our faith tells us Easter will come!

As news reports and updates on the spread of the Coronavirus COVID-19 surround us, we can feel overwhelmed. Every day, even on the weekend, principals are receiving updates. We will keep you informed as I receive new directives from the Monroe County Health Dept., the NYSDOH, and the NYSED regarding school. We are posting a Q & A sheet on our website that might answer some of your questions and will keep that updated.

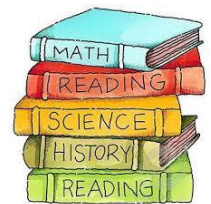
President Trump extended the voluntary national shutdown through April 30. We will wait for official word from Gov. Cuomo regarding the schools of NYS. However, with the number of cases still growing in NYS, this time of social isolation may be a long stretch for schools and businesses.

Ongoing Education

The NYSED has required all schools to continue teaching during this time of social distancing. I can assure you that Nazareth's faculty has been working around the clock to provide meaningful and creative lessons for our students. While it has only been a little over two weeks, it feels much longer with the amount of care, time, and energy all have put forth. We are very proud of all the work accomplished in such a short time. It has been a learning curve for the teachers and me, for the students, and for you as we all adjust to the pacing and daily scheduling.

Thank you for your hard work with your children in setting guidelines and schedules for working on their lessons. The assignments being done and the interactions with teachers have been wonderful! We recognize that your load at home is heavy as you tend to your family, guide your children with schoolwork, go to work yourselves, or work from home. This has been a balancing act for all of us, including our teachers who are home with their own children.

Important: We understand that not every child will be able to complete every assignment. That is fine! However, we do expect every student to be working every day (or evening as fits your home schedule) on assignments. *Every student also needs to check in each day with his/her homeroom teacher who is taking daily attendance.* Students should work on lessons from the Specials and AIS teachers, as well as from their homeroom teachers, for variety and balance in their days and ongoing growth in all areas. They can choose a Specials teacher's lesson on the day they would normally have that Special. Do not let them convince you that they can pick lessons that they think are fun and skip the rest! They do need to work on the core subjects, too. ☺



Note: If you have not been able to connect with your child's teacher through Google Classroom, please send her an email or Dojo her. Everyone can see lessons on the Teacher Web pages, even using a phone, but there are more in-depth lessons on Google Classroom. ***Continuity of learning is required of every teacher for every child, so please let us know how we can better serve you.***

We have received a few questions about **tuition**. We are asking for your continued support during this unique health crisis. Although our doors remain closed at this time, the education of your children continues. It just does not look like the style of education we have all known. Tuition, as you know, does not cover the full cost of educating a child at Nazareth, so we count on many donors to make up that difference. At the same time, we very much rely on monthly tuition payments to cover teachers' salaries.

We know that some of you have had to go on temporary unemployment, as have some of our own school staff. We remain committed to the education of your children, and we know you remain committed to honoring your annual tuition agreement with Nazareth as best you can. Please feel free to contact Cathy Cerame at ccerame@nazarethschools.org with questions or concerns. Again, we thank you for your ongoing support.

Building Closure and Distance Learning Schedule

The Governor has announced the closure of schools in NY State remains in effect until April 15. The situation will be reassessed at that time. What does this really mean for Nazareth? Distance learning will continue as mandated by the NYSED with the exception of Holy Week, April 6-10. All classes will resume remotely on Monday, April 13. Check the Teacher Web pages and Google Classroom for all lessons.



I truly believe that both teachers and parents need this time off to be refreshed after these intense few weeks. Families need down time together. Teaching and learning will be much more fruitful if there is time to step back, take care of ourselves, reevaluate how these first three weeks have gone, and make adjustments going forward. The break will also provide students who want to finish assignments to be able to do that.

Holy Week – April 6-10 - no new online classes; a good make-up time for a student to proceed with a project or unfinished lesson at one's own pace.

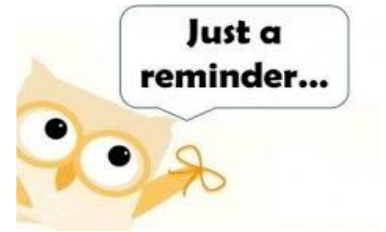
Palm Sunday on April 5 begins Holy Week. April 9 is **Holy Thursday** and April 10 is **Good Friday**. These are wonderful days to pray, reflect, and share as a family on the meaning of these solemn days.

Monday, April 13 - All online classes resume!

Looking ahead - There will be no third quarter report card as planned for April in light of the current situation.

Reminder: Health and Wellness – Students and Adults

- a. Preventive measures for all:
 - wash hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds
 - use alcohol-based hand sanitizers – greater than 60%
 - avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands
 - avoid close contact with people who are sick
 - practice social distancing – six feet
 - stay home as much as you can
- b. Know the main symptoms and characteristics of the virus:
 - cough
 - fever
 - trouble breathing
 - pneumonia



Health/Parent Resources

- [U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention \(CDC\)](#)
- [New York State Department of Health \(NYSDOH\)](#)
- [World Health Organization \(WHO\)](#)
- [Monroe County Health Department](#)
- [How to Talk with your Kids About the Coronavirus \(NBC\)](#)
- [Cartoon for Children \(NPR\)](#)
- [World Health Organization 90-second video](#)

We have added a **Parent Resource** sheet to our web page for help while at home [[Parents>Coronavirus>Family Resources](#)]. Mrs. Conrow has wonderful resources on her Google Classroom page, too. Check out the **FAQ** section too.



Let us continue to pray for the families who have lost loved ones to COVID-19, for those who are suffering from it now, for those in the medical fields who are risking their lives to save others, for those in research, for local, state, and national leaders, and for our brothers and sisters around the world. *I pray you and your families remain safe and healthy. Miss you all!*

Peace - Hope - Love