

Memo to: Parents and Guardians
Memo from: Sr. Margaret Mancuso
April 21, 2020



Christ is Risen, Alleluia! Alleluia!

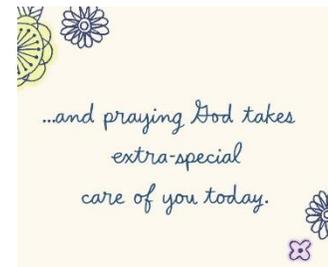
During this Easter Season, the words of Jesus to His friends after the Resurrections are important words for us today too: *Peace be with you*. The disciples were afraid, friends did not understand, people doubted, yet Jesus was there for them. So too, under the darkness of the pandemic, Jesus walks with us offering peace and hope. He listens to our worries, anxieties, and fears. The Resurrection is our light in the darkness.

Words to ponder from Pope Francis:

"The world-wide coronavirus pandemic is not God's judgment on humanity, but God's call on people to judge what is most important to them and resolve to act accordingly from now on."

"It is...a time to choose what matters...a time to separate what is necessary from what is not. It is a time to get our lives back on track with regard to you, Lord, and to others."

Checking In – How are you and your children doing? As the weeks go on, the reality sets in more, yet also increases anxieties and worries for families about food, finances, work, health, and education. Please know that we are here to offer educational, emotional, and spiritual support. Don't hesitate to let us know what we can do for you. How we miss you!



Still on Pause – The latest from Gov. Cuomo is that schools will remain closed through May 15. Therefore, we patiently remain on pause too, while continuing to teach our children in new ways. We want desperately to be back in school, but we do not want to risk anyone's health to go back too soon.

Teaching and Learning – Students and teachers are really doing well. I am in awe of the lessons being prepared by the teachers and the assignments being turned in! We cannot thank you enough for your support at home! We know this is not easy as you balance family life together 24/7, children sharing computers, your own work schedules (if you are able to keep working), unemployment applications, bills, and more. Many parents have told me they have an even greater appreciation for teachers now!

Expectations from Teachers – The teachers and I have been holding faculty, department, and individual virtual meetings. The following keep coming up in our conversations, so let me mention them again:

- ◆ Each student must **check in with her/his homeroom teacher every day** for **legal attendance** purposes. If you are not sure how to do this, email or DoJo your teacher for directions. If you do not check in, but do turn in assignments during the day, the teacher will at least know you are present.
- ◆ We realize that some cannot check in until evening. That is fine, too.
- ◆ When students **complete an assignment**, it is not enough to check 'done' or 'turned in.' Teachers need to see the work. Send work back in whatever ways are easiest for you.
- ◆ Teachers understand that **students cannot complete every assignment**. Do what you can reasonably do that best fits your family schedule. The teachers are recording the work that is completed. It is not counted against a student if they cannot get to it all lessons. *Effort is key.*
- ◆ Students, especially in the primary and intermediate grades, need to work on the **core subjects** throughout each week, along with visiting the **Specials'** Google Classrooms at least once a week. School does not offer a menu for students to choose only the lessons/subjects they like to do. *The core subjects are Religion, Reading and Writing, Math, Science, and Social Studies.*
- ◆ Keep the lines of **communication** open with teachers – ask questions, share when something is too hard, not clear, or cannot be completed. Letting them know will help them better understand your own family situations.



We have begun the **4th quarter**, so this is a critical time to keep learning and growing.

Students: Do not give up now! We know you can do it! You want to finish the year strong!

Financial Questions – Email Cathy Cerame if you have questions about your tuition payments during this time. While we do need tuition steadily coming in so we can pay teachers, we do recognize that some of you are under great financial duress right now. Cathy will work with you. ccerame@nazarethschools.org

Marketing – This is a challenge not being able to give personal tours and answer questions of potential parents face-to-face. They are not able to see the school in action. We are working on some other means of marketing. In the meantime, I ask you to think about why it is important for your children to return to the caring environment of Nazareth when this isolation ends. What would you tell perspective parents about Nazareth? We may be asking for your input soon, so be thinking! What are the values, the positives, the blessings, the benefits you would share?

Information – Keep checking Nazareth's website (see the Coronavirus section on the main page) and Facebook. As updates about school come from Gov. Cuomo and the NYSED, we will update our FAQ sheet for you, too. Do check out the resources and prayers available now and then as well.



The beauty of spring reveals
God's faithfulness in making all things new.

May we be renewed in body, mind, and spirit
during this unique and challenging spring.

May we experience the hope and deep joy of the Easter Season.

