



March 25, 2020

Dear Assumption Families,

I hope this newsletter finds your family safe and healthy. It has now been almost two full weeks since we have seen each other in person and this new reality has me grieving for our school community. Yet, I find hope in what I hear from teachers and in knowing that we are still connected virtually. You are in my prayers daily and I continue to say the Rosary each morning with a prayer that we will be able to celebrate public Mass again together soon. I miss the day-to-day interactions, but I miss our school Masses the most when we can all be together in one place of worship.

We continue to hear great stories from all of you with regards to how students are interacting with each other and with their teachers. Thank you for your adaptability and your willingness to take risks in this challenging time. Remember that we'd love to share these stories with each other through social media and our website, so if you have photos and anecdotes, please email them to theoffice@school.assumption.org and give us permission to post. This is also an excellent marketing opportunity to show new and prospective families the great things you are doing in distance learning.

Registration fees for the 2020-2021 have posted in FACTS, so you should have seen that charge on your most recent statement. If you paid by check, those payments are being deposited this week. Tuition for April will be due after April 1st, so please expect to see that charge, as well.

Each morning at 7:30 am, all of the principals have a call with the Office of Catholic Schools from the Archdiocese so that I can hear what other schools are doing and get updates. This has been extremely helpful to have a support network of up to 73 other principals since every school is doing it just a little differently. We talk about distance learning, health and safety of our students, and overall policies and procedures around this new learning.

One of the policy challenges is attendance. The teachers and I have agreed that students need to login to either Seesaw or Teams at some time between 8 am and 12 noon to be marked "present" for that day. Attendance is also tracked through participation and submission of assignments, but we need to know each day that students are ready to work. Every family's circumstance is different, so if this doesn't work for you please make an arrangement directly with your child's teacher now. It may affect our ability to receive the waiver (to end school on June 19th) from Washington State, so don't wait until after this time is over to share your situation. Thank you.

As a private school, we may be eligible to receive federal relief money because of the effects of school closures and the coronavirus. It takes less than a minute to submit your request to a senator. Follow this link to show your support: <http://action.capenet.org/ctas/equitable-services-non-public-schools-in-cares-act>

As you know, Governor Inslee further restricted movement and public gatherings on Monday evening for the citizens of Washington State. Based on those restrictions here is what we are doing to ensure that teachers adhere to health protocols for the health and safety of all who will need to access the school building.

- Staff who are vulnerable or ill should NOT enter the building for any reason.
- When arriving at school, teachers should wash hands upon entering the school and/or classroom.
- Staff members should go directly to their classroom and maintaining a minimum of at least 6 feet away from each other.
- Staff should attempt to limit movement within the building to reduce exposure and additional cleaning.
- No visitors are allowed to enter the building.
- Staff must wipe down their space: desk, equipment used, and doorknobs upon leaving.

As was stated last week after the governor closed schools, all school staff should be exploring work-from-home options. Based on the governor's order, it is permissible to "carry out minimum basic operations (as defined in Section 3(d) of this Order) for a non-essential business." In keeping with the expectations set by the Archdiocese, schools can have a staff member visit the office weekly to handle mail, pay bills, payroll, etc., especially if these functions cannot be performed remotely.

This new order requires us to halt any non-essential construction projects. This includes installation of the new fence and gates for the traffic loop. (This was scheduled to happen next week.) We are also waiting to order materials for the new playground until we know what the summer will look like. The only construction that may continue are projects that improve public health or impact the safety of a structure.

As Holy Week approaches, Deacon Eric Paige and the Office of Catholic Schools are working together to provide resources for families to assist them in experiencing Palm Sunday and the Sacred Triduum. These resources are forthcoming and will be posted and shared with our community next week.

I've added these items to our FAQ page on the website for your reference in the future. I hope the communication continues to be helpful and please submit any questions or concerns (and stories) through the [Microsoft Form](#).

Peace in Christ,



Dan Anderson, Principal
Assumption Catholic School