

April 20, 2020



Dear Parents, Faculty, and Staff,

Happy Easter! While our Easter celebrations looked very different this year, I hope you all had the opportunity to rest, relax, and enjoy some time off during Easter break. Today we start back to school for the last 6 weeks of this school year.

The word school has taken on a very different meaning for us all in these past several weeks. For now, the word school no longer refers to a building because school is happening remotely in each of our homes. While some school systems have determined that the school year is over, I am proud that in our Catholic Schools learning continues.

There is a lot of media coverage about how and when restrictions will begin being lifted. We continue to monitor and follow government and health department guidelines. For now, we know that schools are to remain closed for the remainder of this academic year, that we are under a stay-at-home order until June 10, 2020, and that any gatherings cannot exceed 10 people.

As teachers, students, and parents you have all adapted into this new environment of learning. I know that it has not been easy. I appreciate your support and patience. We are all learning how to live within the new guidelines in place due to COVID-19 in all aspects of our life including attending Church in our homes as well.

There has been a lot of discussion surrounding our end of year celebrations, especially our high school graduations. We will be celebrating our high school graduations on the days that they are already scheduled to be held. After reviewing many options with the high school principals, unless government guidelines change, the ceremonies will be held virtually on those dates to avoid the possibility that a rescheduled event would need to be postponed, potentially many times, given the unknown circumstances. As a parent of a college senior, I know that this is disappointing for all. Once restrictions are fully lifted, schools could then explore the options of holding in-person celebrations. More information regarding graduation ceremonies and end of year celebrations will come directly from your individual schools.

As we look toward the next academic year, we are setting school budgets and staffing, those decisions are based on many factors, including best academic practices and enrollment. I encourage you to share with your friends, families, and neighbors the successes your children are having in our schools, even during this pandemic. Please encourage them to consider sending their children to one of our Catholic Schools. Our school enrollment offices are open. We are looking forward to your returning for the 2020-2021 school year and to welcoming new families into our schools. Please know of my gratitude for your commitment and for the sacrifices you are making in order to continue a Catholic education for our students.

I continue to pray that God will bless you and that you and your families remain healthy.

Yours in Christ,

Kelly M. Lazzara
Superintendent of Schools
Catholic Diocese of Richmond

"Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid." ~ John 14:27