

Dear Alumni, Friends, and Supporters,

What interesting and strange times we are experiencing! The spread of the coronavirus (COVID-19) has made a significant impact in all of our lives in ways we couldn't have predicted. This isn't the spring update we were hoping to share with you like normal in our Cardinal Crest, but we wanted to remain in touch and share what we're doing at Pacelli Catholic Schools. Most importantly, we want you to know that we will continue to keep you in our prayers, that you and your family stay safe and well

Wisconsin Governor Tony Evers ordered a "Safer at Home" ruling in an effort to flatten the curve and reduce the spread of the virus. This resulted in the closing of our schools for at least a month until April 24th presenting some interesting challenges to the way in which we deliver education. While our buildings aren't physically open, it doesn't mean that teaching and learning for our 4K-12 students has stopped!

Despite the fact that we temporarily closed, we continue to educate our students very effectively. Teachers from 4K through grade 12 are providing students with online lessons, group meetings, digital learning opportunities, and more.

I am so impressed with the creativity and dedication of our teaching staff and technology team and how quickly we're all adapting to this new normal! Teachers are available to meet via email and other electronic communication tools for set virtual office hours each day. They are creating plans and activities that will keep student learning exciting and meaningful. Programs like Google Classroom, Seesaw, MobyMax, and Accelerated Reader are just a few of the tools being used. We have many teachers holding virtual meetings too!

While, in many ways, this has forced us to think outside the box and develop new, innovative educational strategies, there are also some disappointments and challenges because of COVID-19. Spring sports, concerts, and theatrical productions have been postponed. Many field trips and special activities are delayed or even canceled. People are expressing concern over some of the milestone events that will be coming soon, such as prom and graduation. Teachers and students don't get the same level of individual, in person face-to-face interaction that's so unique to Pacelli. My advice is the same – we cannot control what is happening in the world right now, but we can do our best to make sure that this time is used wisely.

As a nonprofit Catholic school system, there are some additional challenges we face. Despite the fact that we've closed our early childhood center, our before and after school programs, and the gift card desk, all resulting in some hits to our projected revenue for the year, we have made the decision to continue to pay our staff throughout this extremely difficult time. We are beyond blessed with tremendous teachers and staff - our most important resource. As a Catholic school system, we feel it is our responsibility and our calling to do all we can to take care of them and their families. We will continue to pay our teachers their full salary and our support staff will receive two full weeks of pay and then 67% of their salary in the weeks following until, hopefully, we are back to school in the traditional sense. More than anything, your prayers and your support will help us move through this time.

People often ask what they should do at this time, and this presents us with an opportunity to slow down, simplify our lives, connect with our families, and form a deeper relationship with Christ.

- **Keep your family safe.** The fact that someone can be contagious and not know it presents some tough challenges. Check in on relatives, neighbors, classmates, and friends, especially those most at risk, and offer ways you can help. Please do your best to stay home.
- **Interact with us on social media** - while we can't get out and be social, we can

create meaningful connections and encourage each other. We'll share more updates as the need arises and will share some fun ways for you to engage with us.

- **Please keep people in your prayers,** especially those who are at high risk, those working on the frontlines in healthcare, law enforcement, first responders, and other essential services.
- **Pray for the health and safety** of our PCS teachers, staff, students, and families; our community; our state; our nation; and our world.

Thank you, as always, for your prayers and support. I will continue to pray for your safety, and for a quick conclusion to the virus. God's Peace.

Sincerely,

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