



March 30, 2020

Dear Catholic school families, students, staff and supporters,

After 2 weeks of a new normal in our schools and communities, I wanted to reach out and share a bit about what has been happening in our schools and in our diocese. After the directive from the state to close all schools starting Monday, March 16th due to the COVID-19 health emergency, we immediately began working to figure out how to best support our Catholic school families during this time.

Our 16 schools have been working overtime to reach out to families and students and ensure that primary needs are met, as well as the learning and faith needs of our students and families. As of today, our schools are scheduled to open again on April 13th, though this obviously could change. In the meantime, each school is providing a wide variety of academic opportunities and faith resources to promote student engagement and continued learning. In addition, each school has arranged for ongoing communication via phone, video conference, and electronic means between teachers and their students each week. Many schools are also offering, or partnering with their local public school districts to offer “grab & go” breakfasts and lunches for children in the community. For information about efforts of specific schools, see their website, social media sites, and/or contact the school office.

We will continue to stay on top of information from the state, public health, and the Iowa Department of Education. In the meantime, I ask each of you to pray for each other, and for our school communities. We are all being asked to do things differently, and to think of new ways to tackle problems that come at us every day. Many of us are doing these things while also addressing life, work and home responsibilities. I truly believe out of new challenges come new opportunities. I encourage you to look for those, whether it's more opportunities to pray together, to say a rosary together, or just simply be together. Together we will get through this, and come out stronger in the end.

Yours in Christ,
Patty Lansink, Superintendent
Diocese of Sioux City Catholic Schools