

THE ROMAN CATHOLIC
ARCHDIOCESE OF ATLANTA



OFFICE OF CATHOLIC SCHOOLS

March 13, 2020

Dear Archdiocesan School Communities:

We have been closely monitoring the COVID-19 virus with guidance from the CDC and the Georgia Department of Public Health. While there are currently no known direct exposures to our school communities, in the greater interest of public health, **our Archdiocesan schools will be closed from March 16, 2020 through March 27, 2020.** Schools are scheduled to re-open on Monday, March 30 subject to review due to this rapidly changing situation.

High Schools will begin virtual school days on Monday, March 16 while our elementary schools will begin Home Learning Plans no later than Wednesday, March 18. Parents and students will receive more information from their principals including the posting of school office hours so that families may retrieve any student items remaining in classrooms or materials needed for participation in our online learning days.

During this time frame, all extracurricular activities, sports, practices, school events and field trips are cancelled.

Please know that the closing of our schools was not an easy decision.

Please stay safe and avoid large public gatherings during the next several weeks.

Sincerely,

Diane Starkovich, Ph.D.

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Superintendent of Schools

The following prayer is being shared with all our staff members this morning. Let us pray for each other, our school communities, and all those suffering from COVID-19.

May we know we are not alone. God is with us. May we turn to God right now in our time of need. May we bring the suffering of our world-wide community into God's loving care. May God's healing and grace shower down upon us, especially those who are sick. May our weak and vulnerable be protected.

May we ask God how we are called to respond, to act, and to move forward. May God make our paths known to us. May we know how to tend to and care for those who are sick and impacted. May we seek shelter and refuge in the arms of the One who loves us and offers us mercy. May all who have experienced loss be comforted.

May we hope in you, O Lord.