



April 24, 2020

TO: St. Michael School Families

FROM: Msgr. Doug Reed, Pastor
Mrs. Tara Navarro, Principal of St. Michael School

RE: Distance Learning Through June 3

Dear St. Michael Families,

Our world is living through unprecedented times and facing decisions that we never imagined possible. While the coronavirus pandemic has impacted so many aspects of our lives, the St. Michael Parish community and the Diocese of Raleigh have remained unwaveringly committed to the health and emotional well-being of our school families, staff, and the greater community, while continuing to “provide a Christ-centered Catholic education, with a focus on academic excellence and the development of the whole person.”

Following the directive released today from Governor Roy Cooper and North Carolina’s public health leadership, and in coordination with the Diocese of Raleigh Catholic Schools Office and Bishop Luis Zarama, St. Michael School will not return to on-campus instruction for the remainder of the 2019 - 2020 school year. Instruction and opportunities to grow in faith will continue through distance learning until our last day of school, Wednesday, June 3.

Compassion and strength of character have forever been a hallmark of our St. Michael School community, and now, more than ever, we are reminded of our core values: Reverence, Service, and Leadership. St. Michael School may look different during distance learning, but it feels the same. Students, families, and our entire faculty have admirably faced the unique challenges of this time with creativity, adaptability, teamwork, and most importantly, love. Each day, we are repeatedly reminded of who we are as a St. Michael family, and I am proud of each and every one of us.

We know many of you will now have additional questions; please know we are working diligently to provide answers. For example, we are developing alternative plans that continue

the traditions of St. Michael School, and we are also taking into consideration the many logistics of this decision, including alternative plans for end-of-year procedures. More detailed information will be communicated in the upcoming weeks as we receive additional information and data from public health officials and our Diocese, such as when large gatherings may reoccur. Additionally, families in certain grade levels - such as Grade 2 and Grade 8 - will receive separate correspondence.

In an effort to connect with StMS parents during this extended period of distance learning, we invite you to join us for a St. Michael family discussion, which we will host through Zoom next week. Our leadership team will host two sessions, and each one will focus on the expectations for different grade levels so that our time together is efficient. On Wednesday, April 29 we will host a session for families with students in Pre-K through Grade 3, and on Thursday, April 30 we will host a session for families with students in Grades 4 - 8. Both sessions will take place from 3:00 – 4:00 p.m. Please RSVP to attend either event by following [this link](#). In the RSVP, please share with us any questions or topics that could help guide our discussion. The sessions will be recorded so that you can watch at your convenience if you are unable to attend. Please know we will do our best to answer any questions you share with us in advance, yet at the same time, there may be many questions that will not have answers quite yet.

Class of 2020, we are all praying for you! We know this is not how you imagined your last months at StMS, and we remain committed to honoring your special place and legacy in our school family. With the help of our wonderful PTO and SAC boards, along with our leadership team and dedicated faculty, we will work to preserve as many Grade 8 traditions as possible, while continuing to celebrate each one of you!

Thank you for your patience, understanding, and support. Let us continue to find comfort in our faith and in our St. Michael community, as well as in our sincere love for each other. May we all remember in our prayers our public leaders, first responders, healthcare professionals, the unemployed, and so many others whose courage is immeasurable. It is clear that we do not walk alone; we need one another. In the words of Pope Francis, “Let us allow the love of God – who sent His Son Jesus – to enter into us and help us see the light of the Spirit.”

St. Michael the Archangel, pray for us.

Best Regards,

Msgr. Douglas Reed, Pastor

Tara Navarro, Principal