



March 12, 2020

TO: St. Michael School & Preschool Families

FROM: Mrs. Tara Navarro, Principal of St. Michael School

Msgr. Doug Reed, Pastor of St. Michael Church

RE: Reminders about Healthy Habits & Coronavirus Readiness

Dear St. Michael Families,

In our continuing efforts to keep you informed about the evolving situation around the coronavirus (COVID-19), we have created a [dedicated webpage](#) on our St. Michael School website. This dedicated page will provide quick access to school communications and updated information from trusted health resources at the local, state, and national level.

Since Gov. Roy Cooper declared a State of Emergency for North Carolina on March 10, our North Carolina State Health Department continues to recommend that schools remain open, as does our Diocesan Catholic Schools Office. However, it has been determined today that athletic events - including games, practices, and clinics - will be suspended as of Friday, March 13 until further notice, as per recommendations from the North Carolina High School Athletic Association.

Diocese of Raleigh principals and preschool directors had a conference call today with our superintendent, and we will continue to actively discuss and monitor this situation as it applies to our local schools and respective counties.

We are having ongoing meetings with all St. Michael PreK – Grade 8 teachers to help them prepare additional lesson plans through Google Classroom, in case our local Health Department advises that we close. Our faculty has been getting daily technical support, and they are practicing distance learning in the classroom every day here at school. In other words, if instruction from home is needed, our teachers and students are well-prepared. The upper grades Chromebooks we have for student use will also start going home. This will allow students to get used to this new process, instead of storing them at school. We have reviewed our technology acceptable use policy with students, and they know what is expected. Should the need for distance learning occur, families will receive more information from their children's teachers.

To help us gauge all students' abilities to access Google Classroom from home, please expect the following: your child's homeroom teacher will contact families to invite them to complete a simple Google Form about one's Lenten journey. All homeroom classes who have 100% participation in submitting a completed Form will also receive an out-of-uniform pass! If your child has any trouble accessing Google Classroom from home, you may email your child's homeroom teacher for ID and password information.

We are aware that a few K-12 private schools have closed for cleaning or possible parent cases, and we have been in contact with their school leadership. It is encouraging to report that the families thought to have the virus at Grace Christian tested negative for COVID-19; their school has reopened, and no one was exposed to the virus.

The health and safety of all our students, educators, and families is our priority. We are discussing previously planned events, and we will communicate any related-decisions pertaining to our school community via email, social media posts, ParentAlert, as well as the [dedicated webpage](#). What we do know is that the March 13 Academic Decathlon and the April 25 North Carolina Science Olympiad State Competition have been postponed. Additionally, the April 4 Spring Fling for St. Michael families will be postponed. If there are any other gatherings, field trips, or extracurricular activities that need to be canceled, we will share that information in a timely manner.

As the CDC recommends, our best way to reduce risk and stay healthy is to make sure we are practicing proper hand hygiene, covering coughs and sneezes with a tissue, and cleaning frequently touched surfaces, which we are doing. Additionally, our campus custodial staff has been given increased hours dedicated to keeping our school building as sanitized and clean as possible.

We pray for those affected by this virus, their caregivers, and their families, and we continue to pray for one another.

Best Regards,

Mrs. Tara Navarro, Principal