



Diocese of Lafayette

OFFICE OF CATHOLIC SCHOOLS

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TO: All Parents *AL*
FROM: Anna Larriviere, Superintendent of Catholic Schools
RE: Continuing Education During Coronavirus Containment
DATE: March 18, 2020

In response to the current coronavirus COVID-19 pandemic and the risks associated with person-to-person transmission, Governor John Bel Edwards has declared a public health emergency. Effective March 16, 2020, all K-12 public school facilities are closed through April 13, 2020, pending further action. While the facilities closure mandate of this executive order applies only to public educational institutions, the Diocese of Lafayette, in the interest of safety, has instituted a similar facilities closure protocol applicable to all Catholic schools within the Diocese.

During the temporary facilities closure, education of Catholic school students is continuing through various means, including learning packets, digital educational platforms, instructional materials via email and other online opportunities orchestrated by teachers. Teachers will continue to provide instruction, assignments, assessments and grades using available resources and technology. To receive full course credits, students, in turn, will be expected to complete their assignments and fulfill all applicable course requirements. Operational expenditures, including faculty and administrative salaries, continue throughout this period, as will tuition obligations. The full cooperation of parents during this challenging and unprecedented situation is imperative.

Now more than ever, it is important for all of us to remain faithful to the mission of Catholic Education in a spirit of faith and mutual support. Let us all take steps now and throughout the duration of this crisis that will allow us to look back on these difficult and trying times with pride in the way that we remained unified, prayerful and committed. A Catholic school can only exist when the school community is willing to accept all of the sacrifices necessary for the sake of the entire school family—students, parents, faculty and staff. Let us use this as a teaching moment for our children as it relates to the development of our spiritual lives, character and perseverance.

I am grateful for your continued support of Catholic education and know that all families are in my thoughts and prayers.