



March 18, 2020

Dear St. Patrick School Families,

We are halfway through the week! I want to thank all of the families who continue to reach out to myself and the faculty over the past few days with your kind thoughts and notes of support. This is truly a school-home team effort. Please know that I am constantly updating my blog so check that regularly for updated information, resources, and tips. The address is: <https://sites.google.com/st-pats.org/drrossblog/home>. Beginning today, you will also be able to find my blog on the St. Patrick School website, in the green bar at the very top of the homepage.

We know it is not easy, but we are doing everything possible to teach and support your children during this unprecedented situation. Your children are working hard and it shows! The faculty and I are extremely proud of how much has already been accomplished in such a short time. We also know that you are working with your children as they navigate eLearning and, for so many of you, you are also working hard at your own jobs. We are here for you as much as we can be digitally. I strongly urge you to email the teacher at the first "hint" of an issue. All faculty and staff are all available by email.

As we have received new guidance on eLearning protocols this week, you may see some adjustments to teacher schedules for instructional time and office hours. As we move to more active instruction over the next week, please know that teachers may not be immediately available to answer questions through email when they are teaching a class. They know how important your need for feedback is and will attend to it as soon as possible. Please encourage your child to move on to another subject. Some teachers are using the comments feature on Google Classroom for students to ask questions in real time and to converse with their peers. Please know that those are monitored until noon each day and should be for academic conversations only (See Parent/Student Handbook). If a student or you have a question after noon, an email to the teacher is best.

We know the hardship that this situation puts on many of our families. By the end of this week, the Diocese of Paterson Catholic Schools Office and St. Patrick School will provide resources to parents for counseling services for students in need.

In addition, the Diocese of Paterson Catholic Schools Office has asked us to distribute weekly surveys to parents and students. The survey will benefit us greatly, helping gauge how the school as well as the Diocese is managing the eLearning effort and how you and our students are managing the effort too. Timely feedback will be very beneficial and important to us. Thank you in advance for your feedback!

As a working parent myself, I know this is not an easy transition. We appreciate your patience and compromise as we work through the inevitable bumps in the road in our new normal. We can do this! We WILL do this! As the prayer I say each morning says, "let goodness, discipline and knowledge lead us to patience, peace and understanding" - especially during this season of Lent.

I will see everyone at morning prayer tomorrow!

Blessings,

Christine Ross, Ed. D
Principal