



March 11, 2020

Dear St. Patrick School Families,

Please set aside time to read this communication as it holds important information about the school's current preparedness and planning regarding the COVID-19 coronavirus health outbreak.

I am writing to share updates and resources with you as we continue to monitor and plan for the implications of the COVID-19 coronavirus outbreak. The Administration, Parish and the Diocese of Paterson Schools Office will continue to meet regularly to assess risks to our students and community. Moving forward, all communications from the school about the COVID-19 coronavirus health outbreak will also be posted on the St. Patrick School website <https://st-pats-school.org/nurse> and on the Parent Portal in the Schools and Links section, Parent Information Folder.

### **What We Know**

As part of the state's coordinated response to address the coronavirus outbreak, Governor Phil Murphy declared a State of Emergency and a Public Health Emergency on March 9, 2020 to ramp up New Jersey's efforts to contain the spread of COVID-19 coronavirus. Executive Order No. 103 declares a state of emergency and public health emergency across all 21 counties in New Jersey, allowing state agencies and departments to utilize state resources to assist affected communities responding to and recovering from COVID-19 coronavirus cases. The World Health Organization has now officially deemed COVID-19 coronavirus a pandemic.

### **Current Protocols**

#### **Cleaning Campus and Health Information Signage**

Our Building Maintenance and Custodial Team is cleaning classrooms, bathrooms, all common areas and shared spaces numerous times a day, with a specific focus on doorknobs and levers, light switches, faucet handles, bathroom partition handles, work surfaces, student desks, classroom tables, teacher desks, keyboards and mice, and phones.

School nurses have visited all classrooms and grades, providing instruction on proper hand washing to all students. Throughout campus, the school has placed age-appropriate signage with information on proper hygiene and how to avoid germ transmission, following the list of CDC recommendations for K-8 schools on common sense preventative actions for students and staff.

#### **School Closure/E-learning**

In response to a determination by the New Jersey Department of Health that a closure or dismissal of school is necessary, St. Patrick School will employ an E-learning plan from that point forward to engage students on days when they cannot attend school. Students will be able to participate in instruction and learning through online lessons and/or by completing assignments in books that have been sent home. These lessons will provide instruction of new skills and concepts.

#### **How will students complete the lessons?**

All students with Google Classroom access will be able to log on to their accounts and access their assignments. Assignments will be posted by 8:15AM. By Thursday, March 12, parents will receive student email and password information. Middle school students are already in possession of this information. Please see individual teacher letters that will be forthcoming in the event of a transfer to E-learning.



### **How can my child receive help with their assignment?**

Teachers are required to provide assistance throughout the day to students from 7:50AM until 3:10PM. They can be reached through email and, if applicable, Class Dojo. Teacher email addresses and websites can also be found on the school website and on the Parent Portal under the Staff Directory. On Thursday March 12, students will begin bringing home essential books each day. We ask that these books be returned with the student each morning.

### **How much time will these lessons take my child to complete?**

The time necessary to complete the assignments will vary by grade level. Teachers have designed the lessons to meet the New Jersey Department of Education requirements of 4 hours of total learning engagement in K-8. Early Childhood will vary by grade but will not exceed the suggested 2½ hours per day.

### **What if my child has forgotten passwords to online resources?**

You can contact your child's teacher to receive login and password information. They can be reached through email and ClassDojo (if applicable). Teacher email addresses can be found on the school website under <https://st-pats-school.org/staff> and in the Parent Portal under the Staff Directory.

### **Why should my child complete these lessons?**

These lessons have been designed to reinforce and enrich your child's education. The instruction online is not review work, but the instruction of new concepts and skills. Teachers will be teaching these new concepts virtually. Students are required to complete all tasks assigned on the E-learning day and submit either online by the due date posted or hand in to the teachers upon return to school as noted on the assignment. Teachers will grade all assignments in alignment to New Jersey Department of Education and Diocese of Paterson E-Learning guidelines.

### **What if the emergency creates a situation that prevents my child from completing the work?**

We understand that in these situations families may face challenging circumstances. Students should make every effort to complete assignments, however please communicate any difficulties to the teacher. Online assignments are not intended to increase a family's burden in an emergency situation. The school will work with that student upon return to complete all assignments within a time period in accordance with New Jersey Department of Education and Diocese of Paterson guidelines.

If you have any additional questions about assignments, please contact your child's teacher. Again, this plan will only be employed should the New Jersey Department of Health deem a closure or dismissal of school. *As of today, there is no change of our current School Calendar of instruction or events. These are all proactive measures.*

### **Community Events**

St. Patrick School is following the recommendations of the New Jersey Department of Health for hosting community events (athletics, after school enrichment, field trips, etc.). At this time, the cancellation of activities or larger gatherings has not been recommended. We will update the community if there are any changes to these recommendations.



### **School-Related Travel**

The school will continue to monitor the New Jersey Department of Health for recommendations for field trips, making decisions that prioritize student health and safety and communicating updates to families with students enrolled on these trips.

### **Family Travel and Trips**

Many St. Patrick School families travel regularly and/or may have plans to travel over Spring Break. St. Patrick School is following the travel recommendations put forward by the CDC. For any families with upcoming travel, the school recommends reviewing CDC Travel Frequently Asked Questions and Answers. St. Patrick School asks that you follow the guidelines below if you are traveling internationally in coming weeks:

- Consult the CDC's latest travel advisories and country-specific risk classification levels prior to travel.
- Consult the CDC again for updated information upon your return, as the situation is rapidly evolving.
- If any member of your family plans to travel to one of the countries classified by the CDC as Level 2 or Level 3, you must inform the school by contacting the School Nurse at [schoolnurse@st-pats.org](mailto:schoolnurse@st-pats.org)
- If any member of your family travels to one of the countries classified by the CDC as Level 2 or Level 3, and returns demonstrating symptoms of the flu, we ask that you not attend school and report your symptoms and exposure risk to the agencies listed above, and inform the school based on the recommendation of the agency and your physician at [schoolnurse@st-pats.org](mailto:schoolnurse@st-pats.org). If you return and are asymptomatic, please consult your physician for guidance about the appropriateness of returning to school.

We respectfully request that families carefully consider travel plans, the possibility of travel interruptions and/or quarantine, and the potential impacts of these on you, your family, and others in the St. Patrick School community.

Thank you for your attention to this and all future communications on this issue. Please be assured that the health and wellness of our school community is our top priority, and that we have been and are prepared to adjust our operations in response to the public health situation. If you have any questions, I encourage you to email the School Nurse at [schoolnurse@st-pats.org](mailto:schoolnurse@st-pats.org) or reach out to your child's teacher.

We will continue to send updates as the circumstances evolve.

Blessings,

Christine Ross, Ed. D  
Principal