



March 13, 2020

Dear St. Patrick School Families,

Thank you so much for your support as we navigate through this new experience. We are doing our very best to make thoughtful decisions while keeping our whole community in mind. I also thank you for your prayers for all our faculty and staff. They are working hard to make this extraordinary time as seamless as possible for your children.

This afternoon, the Diocese of Paterson Catholic Schools Office made the decision to temporarily close schools as of March 16, 2020. All schools will be closed for a period of two weeks. In addition, the school building will be closed to everyone. Non-essential activities and events are suspended during this time. At the end of the two-week period, a determination will be made to resume school or to continue a closure. The Diocese will monitor all unfolding events of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Today, students in the elementary and middle school grades left with distance learning resources, including all of their workbooks, notebooks and other items to help them learn and work from home (please see *E-Learning Days: Important Information for Students and Parents* letter attached). If your student feels like they left an item at school that they need during our E-Learning days, I will be in the school building on Saturday from 10:00AM to 11:30AM. Transitioning to remote learning will be an adjustment for all. As we've indicated previously, aside from wanting to keep our students healthy, our goal is to ensure that students are engaged and learning, while we remain attentive to their emotional needs during this unsettling and unprecedented time.

We will be communicating additional information to you as we venture into these uncharted waters. Some of these communications will include updates on the status of the school, how to get help with technology-related matters, and other details. We know there will be questions and challenges that arise and bumps in the road in the coming days and weeks. The faculty and staff at St. Patrick School will work together with you to do everything we can to support our students and help them progress.

We know the situation is not ideal and I am ever mindful of the hardships this school closure will cause our families. Thank you in advance for your understanding and flexibility as we work through this extraordinary set of events. May God bless you and your family.

Blessings,

Christine Ross, Ed. D
Principal



E-Learning Days: Important Information for Students and Parents

Below is a Q&A to help further answer questions regarding E-Learning days and how it will work. Should you have any additional questions, please contact your child's teacher.

How will attendance be verified?

Attendance must be taken, and records of attendance must be kept. There are many indicators of attendance during E-learning, including but not limited to: completion of assigned lessons and time on task. Some ways attendance may be verified include, but are not limited to logging in to class page(s) on Google Classroom, email exchange with teacher, activity in classes such as pages accessed, discussion participation, and completed assessments.

Can families choose to opt out of eDays?

No. All work must be completed as part of the E-Learning day or made up in accordance with the school absentee policy (only if an absent email is received by the teacher on the day of the work assignment). Missed work that is not completed within the allotted time will be considered an unexcused absence and must also be completed.

How will I know my child's schedule for the day?

A student should follow the lessons posted on Google Classroom.

What if I experience issues with technology?

Please contact the teacher if you have any technology issues.

Will training in the use of the digital platform be provided to students and parents?

Yes. Students will not be asked to use tools that they have not already experienced in the classroom. Tutorials will be provided in the Parent Resource section of the Parent Portal. This link will help with Google Classroom <https://photos.app.goo.gl/YPbygL1ajV7WX8m8A>