



March 16, 2020

Dear Parents,

We are writing to inform you that all Catholic schools in the Diocese of Des Moines will be closing from March 23-April 14. This includes all educational programming, childcare, athletics, and other co-curricular activities. All childcare programs will close tonight, Monday, March 16 at 6 PM until April 14.

We are taking these steps in alignment with Governor Reynolds' recommendation as a way to stop the spread of the COVID-19 in our communities. We stress that this is a time to stay at home, not to spend time in the mall or movies, so we can do our best to mitigate any further spread of this virus.

Our goal is to continue the educational process as that is best for students and families. Each school will be sending out details on the plan for your child's education during these coming weeks. Technology, as well as traditional methods, will be shared with you so your students are able to continue their learning. Each school will communicate with you regarding what the opportunities will look like and how you can access all information and resources.

It is important that you assist your child in utilizing the materials and opportunities sent home. Continuing the education process is important for your children and will help them to feel a sense of normalcy in this time. If you need help talking with your children about COVID-19, these resources may be of assistance.

https://660919d3-b85b-43c3-a3ad-3de6a9d37099.filesusr.com/ugd/64c685_319c5acf38d34604b537ac9fae37fc80.pdf

~National School Safety Alliance resources:

[https://www.nasponline.org/resources-and-publications/resources-and-podcasts/school-climate-safety-and-crisis/health-crises/talking-to-children-about-covid-19-\(coronavirus\)-a-parent-resource](https://www.nasponline.org/resources-and-publications/resources-and-podcasts/school-climate-safety-and-crisis/health-crises/talking-to-children-about-covid-19-(coronavirus)-a-parent-resource)

NASP and NASN: [Talking to Children About COVID-19 \(coronavirus\): A Parent Resource](#)

The administrator at your school will be sharing information with you regarding times you may come to school to pick up any materials or personal belongings students may need.. Please know that administrators and teachers will do their best to ensure learning continues for your students. We appreciate your partnership to educate your children. We want you to know we are keeping you in prayer as you address the challenge, immediacy, and whirlwind of the Covid-19 situation among our schools, churches, communities, and families. We know you are doing all you can to ensure the health and well-being of all in your care.

God's blessings~

The Diocese of Des Moines Catholic Schools Office