

Good evening Saint Agnes Academy families,

I am writing this evening to update you on the planning that is taking place here at the school regarding the coronavirus outbreak. At this moment, we have no reported cases at Saint Agnes Academy.

We continue to examine carefully the communications from state and national health authorities regarding the virus, along with our community and the Diocese. We also continue to follow their guidelines for good hygiene here at our school. While there are currently no recommendations from authorities in the Public Health Department or from the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education to close the school, we are making contingency plans just in case.

If you are not comfortable sending your child/ren to school, please know that we will support your decision and help you as much as possible by providing homework via email or to be picked up. Starting March 2<sup>nd</sup> Your child is not marked absent if you do not feel comfortable sending her/him to school.

In the event of a school closure, here are some details for your consideration:

- Each teacher will be in direct contact with parents via email with details of their individual assignment plans. The teachers already have plans and ready to go in case we must close. Some teachers may be sending materials including printed assignments and/or textbooks.
- Teachers of students in grades 4 - 8 may also share information via the school Google accounts, online vocabulary, and Khan Academy. Again, each teacher will send out an email with a detailed plan.
- All teachers will make use of daily email to communicate with families.
- The school will be open the next weekday of the announced closing date (9:00 a.m-12:00 p.m) to allow parents to come and pick up materials if they need to. For example, if the decision is made on a Friday, we will be open on Monday for parents to come and pick up any materials that was not sent home from the school. Each teacher will communicate that to the parents if needed.
- Along with the assignments, teachers will provide guidance to families about specific assignments and how students will be able to ask questions and receive feedback. Given the range of ages of our students, these practices will, of course, vary considerably.
- Enrichment Program: At this time, the winter session for afterschool classes will continue as long as the school remains open. If anything changes, all families participating in the classes will be notified. This excludes Lego Robotics.
- As for the Enrichment spring session that will start the week of April 7<sup>th</sup>, we have decided to start signups for classes with the idea that classes might be delayed or canceled. If there is any chance at all you will be notified as soon as possible. Flyers will be going home Monday, March 16<sup>th</sup>. If you think it would be best to have your child refrain from the winter session classes due to COVID-19 please feel free to do so and contact Mrs. Flanders at [kflanders@saintagnescc.com](mailto:kflanders@saintagnescc.com) for any questions or concerns.

In organizing these steps, we hope to provide families with structures that they can use to help our students remain productively engaged in academic work in the event of a school closure. We offer them, however, with the knowledge that our school is organized on the premise of person- to -person interactions. Our teachers are working hard to be prepared to communicate with families remotely should the need arise. In executing these steps for the first time, we do recognize that there may be some bumps along the way, but we will monitor and calibrate as needed. We appreciate your understanding and support as, like you, we undertake to manage a highly sensitive and fast-changing situation.

Finally, understanding that some families may be traveling during this time, we ask that upon your return you be conscious of any recommendations from health officials regarding any self-quarantine measures that may be appropriate at that time.

We will keep you updated on any additional developments as this situation evolves. Please do not hesitate to contact us with any questions or concerns that you may have.

Please refer to the following Helpful links :

Click here for more information on the Coronavirus:  
<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html>

Click here for Pittsfield Health Department

[https://cityofpittsfield.org/covid-19\\_\(coronavirus\)/index.php](https://cityofpittsfield.org/covid-19_(coronavirus)/index.php)

Click here for Massachusetts Department of Public Health

<https://www.mass.gov/orgs/department-of-public-health>

Department of Elementary and Secondary Education

<http://www.doe.mass.edu>

Central Berkshire public school

<http://www.cbrsd.org>

School guide

<https://www.edweek.org/media/6-steps-for-schools-to-respond-to-coronavirus-guide.pdf> BMC Berkshire Health

system hotline

855-BMC-LINK

Sincerely,

**Fadia Rostom Makdisi**

**Principal**

**St. Agnes Academy**

**30 Carson Avenue**

**Dalton, MA, 01226**

**Telephone: (413) 684-3143**

**Fax: n (413) 684-3124**

**[Fmakdisi@saintagnescc.com](mailto:Fmakdisi@saintagnescc.com)**