



# ST. MARY'S

## ACADEMY

Dear St. Mary's Families:

We are in the final stages of finishing the 2019-20 academic year, a year that has stretched and pushed us in ways we never could have imagined. On Wednesday, we met with faculty and staff to discuss important updates on our preparations to safely welcome our community back to school in the fall and to communicate the school's priorities for the coming year.

To prepare for our reopening, the school has convened a task force that will examine every aspect of our program to ensure we have a plan for the various scenarios that might present themselves. At this point, we are working with the Oregon Department of Education and Oregon Health Authority's June 10<sup>th</sup> guidance titled [Ready Schools, Safe Learners](#). We will share more with you in the coming weeks about how St. Mary's will safely open in the fall.

While we don't have all of the answers right now, we know that we must prepare for a number of scenarios that include both in-person and remote instruction. The Task Force recommended that the school purchase technology that allows teachers to livestream their classes so that we have the capability should we need to lower capacity in our building. This means that a portion of our students can be in the classroom while the others are simultaneously participating from home, so that all students will have access to in-person learning on a regular basis. This technology, called Swivl, will allow much needed flexibility and educational stability. In the meantime, you may want to visit their website to learn more: ([Swivl](#)). We are confident that with planning, preparation, and training, St. Mary's will address the challenges presented by COVID-19 and provide even more opportunities for a rich and meaningful education.

That being said, the challenges that stem from our country's structures and systems that reinforce racism will take longer than the summer months for solutions. The Board of Directors will be convening a committee that will work closely with our Director of Equity and Inclusion, equity team, administration, and students to examine our school's programs and structures and to make recommendations. Our professional development funds for next year will be allocated to training on new technology and hybrid teaching strategies as well as to equity and anti-racism education, training, and action. We commit to centering this work going forward, and we will continue to communicate with you on our progress. As a community of learners and of faith, St. Mary's

Academy is dedicated to building equitable and anti-racist systems and practices.

Thank you for entrusting your daughter's education to us at St. Mary's Academy. Please know that our commitment to finding solutions to deliver the best education possible is stronger than ever, and we know that together we will work to create a world where health, equity, and justice are enjoyed by all.

Thank you and God bless you,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Nicole Foran". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long, sweeping underline.

**Nicole Foran**  
Principal

St. Mary's Academy | 1615 S.W. Fifth Ave., Portland, OR  
97201