



Dear St. Mary's Academy Families:

Like many of you, we are aware of Tuesday's announcement regarding the spread of the coronavirus (COVID-19) and the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommendation that we all may need to be prepared for potential interruptions in our usual routines. While we are not concerned right now, in an effort to plan proactively, we wanted to let you know that the St. Mary's Academy administration has been formalizing protocols to guide our school community.

In the event of school closures, St. Mary's Academy will institute digital learning for an extended period of time. We feel confident that with our technology and digital learning practices, students will be able to continue their studies. To review our current digital learning protocols, please visit our [website](#). If you would like more information about the coronavirus (COVID-19), a good resource can be found on the CDC's [website](#), which provides information and regular updates.

We also wanted to take this opportunity to remind our community that if students, as well as faculty and staff, are sick, they should stay home from school. There is no test, no project, no activity or competition that is too important not to miss. Our students' health is and should always be our top priority. As a commitment to this priority, our teachers and counselors will work directly with students to catch up if they miss time at school due to illness.

We will continue to update you if the need should arise. In the meantime, please practice healthy habits to help prevent the spread of contagious respiratory illness, including common colds and flu. The CDC recommends the following:

- Cover your mouth and nose with a tissue when you cough or sneeze.
- Put used tissues directly in a wastebasket.
- Cough or sneeze into your upper sleeve or elbow, not your hands, if you do not have a tissue.
- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds.
- Use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer if soap and water are not available
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth. Germs spread this way.

- Try to avoid close contact with sick people and if you are sick, stay home to recover.

If you have additional questions about student health, please feel free to contact me directly. For questions about digital learning, please contact Liane Rae, Assistant Principal of Curriculum and Instruction.

All my best,

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

Nicole Foran
Principal



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97201