

May 12, 2020

Dear Parents,

As I'm sure you've heard, the archdiocese has announced that schools will remain in Remote Learning for the remainder of the school year. With the increased risk of Covid-19 to children that was recently announced, I know that this is the correct decision, although a difficult one to hear.

We know how hard our students and teachers have been working and what a challenge this time has been. Due to this, we are going to end the school year on May 29. This will give the teachers the next two and a half weeks to work on important curriculum content with their students before we close. In the next week or so I will have more information about the last days of school and how we can still celebrate safely with a Bump Up Ceremony.

Ending on May 29 means 9 less days of school, however, with us missing so many of the activities that make these last days special such as class parties, graduation, awards ceremonies, socials, and Olympics, we are not losing too much in regards to teaching and curriculum. These would have been special days for our students that we just cannot duplicate through Remote Learning.

I do not yet know if we will be able to go ahead with our summer programs. I will announce this as soon as possible.

As we look to the future, how we begin the new school year is dependent on what state and local public health departments as well as the archdiocese allow us to do. We are hopeful for a full campus opening although a modified schedule with half of our students on campus at a time is a possibility.

I know that some of our families are struggling during this crisis with unemployment or furloughed employment. Please reach out if you need financial help. We do not want any student to leave St. Philip due to inability to pay tuition. We are prepared to help any family that needs it and the process is confidential so please reach out and let me know. As a community we want to support all of our families in any way we can.

We also know that some students have really struggled with remote learning. We understand how difficult this has been for students and we will spend the summer planning for how to help all students have a strong start to the new school year in August. Our commitment is to make sure no student is left behind due to this crisis and we have planned for added resources for next year to make sure all students' needs are met.

Please pray for those who are sick and that all members of our community stay healthy. All of us at St. Philip the Apostle School miss our students. We pray for the day this crisis is over and we can be together again. Until then, know that we care about you and your families and we want to help however we can.

With lots of prayers for health and prayers of thanksgiving,

Jennifer