



Student Life Update-April 24

Dear St. Rose Families,

We are truly blessed! The peace and comfort of being in the presence of our school family last evening for the HSA meeting shows, that while we have been separated, the closeness of our community has stayed strong!

I want to thank Monsignor for being with us and leading us in prayer; his spiritual leadership and his love for St. Rose brings us a calm in this storm, which was evident during the meeting. To all our parents, we appreciate your continued support and patience as we continue on this journey together. A special shout out to our parents who are healthcare workers, first responders, volunteers, those working to keep essential businesses open to supply the things we need; and last, but not least, those who are fellow teachers and administrators!

This is not a perfect situation, it is not what we foresaw when we rang in 2020, but together we are making the best of it; and the center of the puzzle are our children! Their world was flipped and spun around in March; yet, they show up each day, they give their best, and they continue to bring the joy and smiles in the little things, what we all need these days!

During the break, we took time to reflect on the first three weeks of distance learning, and met to discuss the positives, and also your concerns and questions. We came back on Monday with changes; we intend to keep the children moving forward in skills and through the current school year, but hope to have alleviated some of the stress, anxiety, and frustration that some were experiencing.

We know how important the academics are, but the well-being of our students, in this new normal is our priority. Our teachers are talking almost daily in their PLCs, we are meeting as a full faculty during the week and doing everything to monitor the progress of our students. That includes the check-ins on how they are feeling and handling all of this.

Moving ahead, do we wish we could prevent gaps? Absolutely! Unfortunately, we all know that this is not a perfect situation and the challenges will have an impact and there will be gaps. Our children are not alone because, all students, are in similar situations. I do feel confident, that through the planning and dedication of our teachers, and the support from you, our St. Rose students are ahead of the game.

In early May we will be assessing skills and looking at the scaffolding from one grade to the next. We are blessed with a faculty that works well together, and are having these discussions already. We know what is ahead of us, and what differentiation will need to happen, following this round of distance learning. We will be ready to go, as we are every year, to meet the students where they are as they come into our classroom; but we also know it will be more challenging, than prior years.

We know that navigating this isn't easy; because, as we mentioned at the beginning of the year, no matter how small or tall they are, all of our students are still children...and think about being back in your elementary and middle school years and this happening to you, what would you be doing or not doing...so we need to help them stay on track and that we can do as partners. We can carefully guide them and encourage them, and most importantly be understanding; their feelings, frustrations, and the worries they are carrying. Together, we will help them look back on this part of history, and remember the blessings, more than anything, that come out of our trials.

As for overall student life; through the pictures, the smiles, the emails, our children are doing what they do best, being our St. Rose children! They are role models for us; they are still looking for ways to serve, ways to bring smiles and joy, and ways to make things be ok! While so many people are counting the days in and how many days until we get out of this storm; they are making the days count, for all of us!

I have an email from one of the directors at Church Hill Village; who, by the way were more than thrilled, both residents and staff, to be included in the Easter Parade! The exact words were; " Sunday was a blessing and a blast! Thank you and all who participated so much!"

This email was sent after cards started being received at the Village...

"This morning addressed to me for our residents came a beautiful Easter card made by one of your 6th graders. Anna, has quite a talent along with a very sweet heart. I am publishing this on our internal TV monitors so that all of our residents and staff can receive the genuine joy with which she created it."

I think that has been said over and over about our children in the weeks that have already passed and the ones still ahead of us!

We haven't forgotten the events we are missing, by not being in our building, but we are working behind the scenes with all the moving parts to see ways we can still celebrate parts of our International Week, Special Persons Day, and of course a list of special days and events for our 8th graders; who are missing many things this last quarter. We are finding ways and plans are being made. There will be Virtual Spirit Weeks coming up beginning next week; see the flyer attached to this update. Please remember, this is ALL in the family participation. You need a break as well; join in the fun and we'd love to see pictures of your whole family participating in the week's plans!

There will still be a yearbook, with a twist to some of the sections! It will be one you won't want to miss! So, we are working on a set of plans for riding the school year out in Distance Learning and another set for returning to the building, because as Catholics we always hold on to hope!

I continue to keep you all in my prayers and I wish you daily moments of peace and calm in this storm!

*Warm Regards,
Mrs. B*