

St. Thomas Aquinas Catholic School
“Building a Strong Foundation in Faith and Knowledge”

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April 3, 2020

Dear St. Thomas Aquinas Catholic School Parents and Guardians,

I hope this letter finds you and your family well. Without question, the past three weeks have been challenging for all of us. Despite these difficulties, it is heartwarming to see how our school community has and continues to work together in so many ways. Our Distance Learning (DL) program launched nearly three weeks ago, and since then our teachers have worked continuously to provide their students with uninterrupted DL opportunities. Please join me for a moment to thank our teachers for their hard work and commitment to our students and families. Similarly, the faculty, staff, and administration thank our students and families for their DL cooperation and work as well.

Our Lenten journeys continue as we prepare for Holy Week and Easter. During Lent, we have undoubtedly been praying and reflecting with our families. We give thanks for our blessings, and pray for those in need. It brings us great comfort - especially during this time - when we read what Jesus shares with us in the New Testament, Matthew 11:28: *“Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest.”* As we prepare for a blessed Holy Week and Easter, let us continue to hear His voice in our hearts.

Our faculty and staff will take time over spring break for some much-needed rest, and we hope our families will do the same. Additionally, our teachers will be working as we review and refine our DL program in preparation for our return to a very busy spring of Distance Learning. During the break, students will select a book (or two if they wish) from our electronic library (<https://www.stasonline.net/Page/1616>) or from books you have at home to read and enjoy. Please take some time to discuss the book(s) with your student, as this is an expectation and thus not an instructional plan. Upon our return, teachers will hold discussions with their students on what they have read and why they enjoyed their book(s). Please join me in thanking our school librarian Mrs. Adrienne Wilson for preparing these virtual library resources for us.

As of this date, we know that our school building remains closed until Monday, April 20. Superintendent Dr. Steven Cheeseman will provide an update on this next week, and I will continue to inform you of updates through letters and visual media. I will discuss and share professional information and our goals and objectives related to student online learning, i.e. virtual learning time in comparison to physical school day learning, pacing, “brain breaks”, creativity, and study skills – just to name a few!

During the past three weeks, I have continued to meet and conduct virtual school business with numerous members of our Catholic school community: parents, teachers, administrators, and clergy. Our commitments to St. Thomas Aquinas Catholic School remain strong and resilient, and the care and concern continuously shown by all is inspirational. Thank you for your time today, and may God continue to bless our families as we prepare for Holy Week.

Sincerely,
Patrick D. Higgins, Ed.D.
Principal

