

Dear St. Monica Catholic School Families,

With great gratitude to everyone who is a part of our St. Monica Catholic School family. We are grateful to Father Guadagnoli for his spiritual leadership and guidance. We are grateful to our teaching staff who have developed a robust academic program while adjusting to trying and varying classroom environments. We are grateful to our students who have continued to excel academically even during these unusual times and to all our school parents who have entrusted your children to our care.

The protocols St. Monica Catholic School developed in order to open our school safely in September have worked extremely well. As civic activity has increased, we have experienced a rise in case numbers here in the City of Dallas and in Dallas County. Though St. Monica has not seen anything beyond one case on campus, we have seen a steady increase in individuals considered “close contacts” resulting in an uptick in St. Monica students’ being asked to quarantine. Thanks to our protocols, we have not experienced any transmissions on campus, even with a rise in confirmed close contacts.

As we look forward to Thanksgiving next week, in an effort to protect the health and safety of our staff and families we will be making an adjustment to our learning platforms. On Monday, November 30<sup>th</sup> through Friday, December 4<sup>th</sup> we will transfer all of our students to our virtual learning platform. This move will give our staff and families the gift of time after our Thanksgiving break to focus on their health and safety. We will also make Monday, November 23<sup>rd</sup>, and Tuesday, November 24<sup>th</sup> half-days. This will allow teachers and staff time to prepare for the shift to virtual learning the week after Thanksgiving. Students are expected to be available for synchronous learning on Monday -Thursday: 8am-3pm, with asynchronous learning on Friday: 8am-12pm. All teachers will be teaching from their classrooms on campus and communicating their lessons and links to you by Sunday, Nov. 29 at 8pm.

During this time our COVID task force will be assessing the current impact COVID is having on our school community with the intention of returning to onsite learning Monday, December 7, Virtual learning will remain available beyond December 4th. Our upgraded virtual learning platform has prepared us for this possibility.

The health and well-being of the St. Monica Catholic School community remains our highest priority. Be assured of our prayers for your family during this Thanksgiving season.

With Gratitude

Father Guadagnoli, Pastor

Angeline Trudell, President