Dear Holy Cross Academy Families,

I want to thank everyone in our school community for the way we have banded together through very uniquely challenging circumstances this spring. No one could have ever foreseen a pandemic and accompanying quarantine shutting down schools across the world. I feel so blessed to be part of an amazing group of faculty, staff, and parent body who rallied around our children to keep their Catholic education progressing through uniquely difficult circumstances. Although this pandemic has impacted each family in different ways, what has remained consistent is our Faith and our desire to do the very best we can to support our students.

I wanted to point out a few things as we wind down the academic year. The last day for test and quizzes to be given in schools in the Diocese of Arlington is Friday, May 29. This purposely gives a little over a week for students who may have fallen behind to catch up on assignments prior to grades closing on Friday, June 5. Teachers will have enrichment materials and perhaps links to virtual field trips for students to experience after May 29, but you will notice a purposeful lightening in the work load following that date.

June 8 and 9 will be used for students to come to school to pick up their remaining materials from their classrooms and turn in their textbooks and library books. We will establish a schedule to spread out the turn in/distribution of materials so that we can responsibly social distance.

June 10, 11, and 12 are being used as professional development days so that our teachers can finalize grades, comments, and close out their classrooms for the year. As a final activity for the 2019 – 2020 school year, we look forward to celebrating Mass on Friday, June 12. A live streaming Mass will be offered. We are investigating ways to potentially offer Mass in person for those that feel comfortable attending. Final details for that day’s Mass will be forthcoming.

As we look to the school year ahead, we are anticipating greater than ever need for financial aid from families impacted financially by the quarantine. We are committed to helping our families in their time of need. If you have been impacted profoundly, please do not hesitate to reach out for assistance.

I pray that everyone in our school community remains safe and healthy through this incredibly challenging time. I’m overwhelmed by the support the teachers and I have received from the HCA community and from St. Mary’s Parish.

*In Christo,*

Stephen M. Fry, Ed. D.

Principal