



April 2, 2020

Dear Catholic School families,

The Diocese of Des Moines remains committed to student learning and the health of those we serve. We have been closely monitoring the emerging COVID-19 pandemic, and its impact on the communities in which our schools reside. Today, Governor Kim Reynolds announced that school closures will remain in effect through April 30. This recommendation is in alignment with federal social distancing and shelter in place guidelines. **To ensure the health and safety of all our students, faculty and staff, all 16 Diocese of Des Moines Catholic Schools will remain closed until further notice. Students will continue coursework through distance learning through April 30.**

Public health authorities and government leaders agree that this extension of school closures and other social distancing measures is one of the best ways for our community to help stop the spread and flatten the curve of COVID-19. We understand that the extension of school closures presents parents with ongoing challenges related to childcare and student learning. I want to assure you that our dedicated administrators and teachers have been and will continue to work diligently to ensure continuity for all our students. We want our schools to represent stability, community and support.

Our faculty are continuing to employ new instructional methods to engage students outside the traditional classroom, and our students are discovering new ways to share what they have learned from home. Although we have had to redefine how and where learning happens, our students continue to demonstrate academic growth and depth of knowledge across all grade levels. We will continue to adapt as we navigate distance learning, and we welcome your feedback along the way.

We are here for all our school families! If you have any questions, please contact your school administrator. I invite you to follow us on Facebook at facebook.com/dmdioceschools for current information related to our school closures. Our schools are strong and united. We will get through these trying times together!

Yours in Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Donna Bishop". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Donna Bishop, ED.S
Superintendent of Catholic Schools