



April 9, 2020

Dear Catholic School Parents,

With Governor Reynolds most recent decision to extend school closures until April 30, school officials were asked to determine how learning will be provided for students. As you are aware, the Diocese of Des Moines Catholic schools have been offering distance learning for our PK-12 grade students following spring break. We want to assure you that we will continue to provide this valuable continuous learning experience. We will report to the State of Iowa Department of Education that all of the diocesan schools will move to "Required Educational Opportunities."

What does this mean for students? Actually, not much will change. High quality teaching will continue, but attendance and grading will be added to the distance learning platform as a stipulation within the Department of Education's Required Educational Opportunity. In the coming days, your school will provide additional details on learning at each grade level and content areas, as well as how attendance will be taken and grades awarded.

Administrators and teachers continue to learn together, meet virtually, and share resources in order to maintain quality education. Your children will continue to receive personalized feedback from their teachers. This feedback may come in the form of emails, comments on packets, discussions during live meetings, or individual responses through their learning platform.

We ask that you continue to engage with your children, and encourage their efforts and participation in distance learning. We understand that every family is in a unique situation. We urge you to reach out to your child's teacher and school administrator if any family needs would arise.

We look forward to continuing our partnership with you in the education of your children. We are proud to say our Catholic schools are actively "open" and serving our children. We will continue get through this time 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