

March 12, 2020



Dear Parents/Guardians of Metro Catholic School Students,

I am sure you have been watching the news and have your own questions and concerns regarding the coronavirus and steps that are being taken to ensure that it does not spread. We here at Metro Catholic School are doing similar things to help students and staff stay safe and healthy, including the following:

- Hand sanitizer in every classroom and in the lunchrooms where we make sure students are using it.
- Clorox wipes and Lysol in every classroom space used daily to clean desks, doorknobs, stair railings and any surface that hands touch.
- Daily reminders on announcements about washing hands often, using hand sanitizer, covering our mouths when coughing (or coughing into elbow/sleeve), properly disposing of kleenex and keeping appropriate distance from others in cafeteria or other table spaces.

Metro Catholic School has a safety plan registered with the State of Ohio that covers what we would do if an illness spread to a large part of our school community. As you may remember, we took off two days in early February when many staff and students were not feeling well with flu-like symptoms. That decision was wise and made a difference. If we are asked by either the Diocese of Cleveland or the Ohio Department of Education to close school so that the coronavirus does not spread, we will do these things:

1. Notify parents via our *Remind Text Messaging Service*. **If you are not already receiving text messages from me for Metro Catholic School, PLEASE register your cell phone number with me by calling and leaving me your information.** If your phone cannot receive these text messages, please check into our website (metro catholic.org) or our Metro Catholic School Facebook or Instagram page where we post information.
2. Notify local news stations so that any closing is posted on TV & radio channels.
3. Prepare work for students to do at home. It will be for a grade when they return. We know not everyone has internet access/computers, but we'll do what we can online.
4. Adjust our state and diocesan testing schedules as necessary.
5. Work with students and families so that absence at this time will not cost a child any attendance awards or honors.

Finally, there is a lot of untrue information that is circulating that is not helpful and can cause anxiety and stress in children. Please be sure to read information from trusted websites and sources about the coronavirus. Metro Catholic School will take its information and direction from the federal and local Centers for Disease Control (CDC), the World Health Organization (WHO), the Ohio Department of Education, and the Office of Catholic Education.

When talking to children, an excellent resource that can be found online is:

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/schools-childcare/talking-with-children.html>

This link is being sent to all parents via *Remind Text Messaging Service*.

Your child's safety is of utmost importance to us. As always, you should stay home if you are sick and contact your healthcare provider.

Metro Catholic School has always been known, like other Catholic schools, for its adaptability and flexibility in times of need. We are blessed that you have chosen us to partner in your child's education. Thank you for your faith in us, and may God continue to keep you healthy and bless you abundantly.

Truly,

Mrs. Mary Lou Toler, Director

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