

## NOTES FROM THE OFFICE

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April 1, 2020

Our teachers have become intense learners the last two weeks, transitioning to a new mode of education- teaching and learning from a distance. Effective teachers understand that they do not “teach the text” but teach the students in front of them, adjusting each year to meet the needs of those particular children. This spring, we are learning to adjust in dramatic ways, teaching and learning in the unfamiliar world that surrounds us, where we are distant from one another, yet connected by technology.

Our new model in Middle School is experiencing some great successes, some hiccups- which were expected- and is providing the structure that students need to undertake new material. We are *not* in a holding pattern, focusing on review and maintenance of skills and knowledge. We are building from where we were on March 13<sup>th</sup>, and moving forward! We are extending beyond the guidelines established by the DESE, to ensure student readiness for their return.

Our Lower School teachers are also increasing their online engagement and presence. Teachers are instructing, holding class meetings, having snack, reading stories, specialists are working with students, and the students engage with each other virtually. In addition, teachers are providing one-on-one time with individual students, working with small groups, and differentiating and supporting instruction.

I am impressed by what our committed teachers have done, I know how incredibly hard they are working, how time-consuming this transition in pedagogy has been, and I recognize that this has been a lot tougher than coming to school each day! I thank the staff for the extra effort and time, and I appreciate the patience of parents and guardians as this new model evolves for all of us.

It’s hard to believe that this Sunday Holy Week begins as we celebrate Palm Sunday. **Fr. Paul** will offer **Mass** from the school chapel on Sunday at 10:30. Please join in from the St. Pius X Parish Facebook page.

My question of the day, following morning prayer tomorrow, asks who wants to be on Facebook, reciting the Pledge of Allegiance. Make a video, send to me at [adailey@spxschool.org](mailto:adailey@spxschool.org), and we’ll post it!

The coronavirus, subsequent closures, cessation of work and their impact on income might create financial concerns for families. If you need to temporarily hold a tuition

payment, please let us know. The FACE application process, though the deadline had passed, will be available to those who might need assistance now for 2020-2021.

<https://www.face-dfr.org/how-to-apply/> .

Many thanks to the efforts and understanding of all, as our community has adjusted and evolved the last two and a half weeks!

I'd like to offer a "Shout-Out" to Ms. Gerry, our much-missed cafeteria manager, who is helping with the Dennis-Yarmouth drive-thru breakfast and lunch program, and to the D-Y schools for including all our students in these efforts .

Planning ahead- next Friday is Good Friday, and we will not be having any online classes. Please spend some time with your family on this day during the Triduum praying, or following Stations of the Cross online.