March 16, 2020

Dear Cheverus Community,

Please watch this video message from Dr. Moran:
https://www.loom.com/share/db174333b11b343058382a29e70d065ee

Text of the Video Message:

As we enter this unique and unprecedented time in our school and our countries’ history, I want to take a few minutes to let you know how Cheverus has been working to prepare and support you as we make the shift away from in-person classes to remote learning.

This morning, our faculty gathered on campus and online to hear about our goals and expectations with online learning. We began in prayer as we always do when we meet, and in doing so turned to Jesuit Theologian Teilhard de Chardin:

> Above all, trust in the slow work of God.
> We are quite naturally impatient in everything to reach the end without delay.
> We should like to skip the intermediate stages.
> We are impatient of being on the way to something unknown, something new.

During this morning’s meeting our technology leaders trained our teachers in Google Classroom, Google Meet, and other technologies that will help support our efforts. It was a day of collaboration and sharing that I’ve come to expect of our teachers.

As I stated with teachers this morning, our goal with remote learning will be to keep the momentum of classrooms going even while our physical classrooms are closed. We are asking our teachers to maintain contact with their students on each day that their classes would normally meet.

Unlike typical school days when students meet together at a particular time of day, students often experience remote learning differently. Our goal is not to recreate the typical 8:00 a.m. - 2:20 p.m. school day experience. Taking into account the disruption of a prolonged school closure, we will prioritize delivering high-quality and meaningful experiences for our students rather than simply trying to fill the hours of a full school day.

Tomorrow, Tuesday March 17, we will test this technology and look to reconnect with all our students using our regular 8 period schedule for a Tuesday beginning with HR at 7:50 a.m. Each class will be testing and attempting to connect with both Google Classroom and Google Meet. The purpose of this pilot day is to test our community’s capabilities and learn how to support our students and teachers with this technology.

After Tuesday and for the remainder of the time our in-person classes are cancelled, our classes will maintain contact with whatever methods teachers see fit. Students will be sent an email each morning at 7:50 a.m. with announcements, a morning prayer, and a Google Form that will allow them to “check-in” to homeroom by 8:00 a.m.

After that, we will use our normal daily schedule as a guide to make sure students aren’t being asked to be in two places at once, but this does not mean that every class will have a virtual, visual session each day. On some days teachers may host a group discussion, a quiz or class assignment on Google Classroom. At times students may be working independently and merely checking in with teachers by email to maintain contact.

What I emphasized this morning with our faculty was that we will use the technological tools available to us to maintain contact with our students and families and deliver the high quality instruction you’ve come to expect from Cheverus teachers.

I ask that students and families take some time familiarizing themselves with the Remote Learning Protocol and Guidelines for Google Meet we’ve been working on over the past week. As we’ve emphasized with our communications up to this point, whenever students are in a Google Classroom, using Google Meet, or in any method of communication with Cheverus and our teachers, it is the same as if they are on our campus. We expect our students to approach these times with a level of seriousness and maturity that we know you are capable of.

Finally, please know that we’re here to support you and your family as you make this transition as well. Please reach out to me, your counselors, our Campus Ministry team, and your teachers with questions, comments and thoughts. Stay connected to Cheverus. Join us in prayer for those suffering from this virus, for those living in fear and anxiety, and for the doctors, scientists and caregivers working to ease their pain.

Peace be with you and your family.

Dr. John Moran
Principal
March 15, 2020

Dear Cheverus Community,

Following Fr. Pecoraro’s announcement that we have cancelled all in-person classes until Friday, March 27, I’m writing to you this morning with a few details about the next few days.

On **Monday, March 16**, our faculty and staff will have a professional development day to train in the use of Google Classroom, Google Hangouts/Meet, and to prepare their classes for the shift to online learning.

**The campus will be open to students on Monday ONLY** for the purpose of retrieving items from lockers that will be needed for remote learning. Students should access the building through the front doors by the Main Office and retrieve items from their lockers as quickly as possible.

Our Remote Learning Protocol will be sent to students and families on Monday afternoon.

Sunday and Monday are also good days for students and families **to determine locations in their homes where remote learning can best happen.** We recommend in a common space of your home (e.g. kitchen, living room, etc.), not bedrooms or other inappropriate settings. Unlike social media and Facetime with friends, remote learning needs to be approached in a professional manner - just like school.

**We also STRONGLY encourage families to restrict student gatherings in their homes.** This not only defeats the purpose of making this shift to online learning, it has the potential to disrupt the educational tone we are attempting to set.

On **Tuesday, March 17**, we will pilot the Remote Learning Protocol by following our normal (Tuesday) rotation of classes with homeroom beginning at 7:50 a.m. As we planned, faculty and staff will be on campus for this pilot while students work from home. We will then fully implement our Remote Learning Protocol on Wednesday, March 18. The school administration will review this protocol before Friday, March 27 to determine if it needs to be extended or if we are safe to resume in-person classes on Monday, March 30.

Peace,

John Moran
March 14, 2020

Dear Cheverus Community,

These are unprecedented times. The swift pace with which the world is responding to the COVID-19 pandemic is unlike anything experienced in our collective memory. The health and well being of our students, faculty, and staff is our highest priority. After consultation with state health and education officials we have made the decision to cancel all in-person classes at Cheverus High School until Friday, March 27, effective immediately. If we need to extend this period, we will let you know as soon as we are able to.

**Monday, March 16** will be a professional development day and students will *not* be expected to connect remotely.

Starting **Tuesday, March 17**, we will continue our learning remotely with the implementation of our Remote Learning Model. Students will work remotely.

More information will be shared tomorrow regarding student expectations and protocol for our Remote Learning Model. Please look for these updates in your email. We will continue to keep the COVID-19 section of our website updated.

Earlier this week, Pope Francis prayed to Mary to protect Italy and the world during the coronavirus pandemic. “Under your protection, we seek refuge, Holy Mother of God. Do not disdain the entreaties of we who are in trial, but deliver us from every danger, O glorious and blessed Virgin.” Let us join together as a community of prayer for ourselves and for the world.

For Cheverus,
Fr. Robert J. Pecoraro, S.J.
President
March 13, 2020

Dear Cheverus Community,

I'm writing to you once again in the spirit of transparency and communication. At the end of the school day today I made the following announcement to students:

"Good Afternoon. I’m sorry to interrupt the last few minutes of class but I need a few minutes of your attention before the weekend. You should be aware by now that these are anxious and unprecedented times. As Mrs. King’s prayer this morning reminded us, we need to be thinking of those people who are suffering, who live in fear, and who are racing to the aid of those affected by the Coronavirus.

I ask that you continue to keep those people and our world in your prayers over the weekend. It is natural with all that is going on to feel caught up in the excitement, and it’s also common to feel that there is a level of hysteria attached to all this news. However, we are calling on you to approach these times with a level of seriousness and maturity that goes above and beyond what we normally ask, and frankly a level we know you are capable of. These are times when we ask you more than ever to “Be a Cheverian”.

You know that we are planning for a pilot day of remote learning on Tuesday. Those plans are still in place, and as I speak to you now I expect we will be seeing you all on Monday morning. However, considering how quickly things have changed over the past week we think it would be prudent for students to take as many of your books and materials as you can home today in case we need to make a more abrupt decision over the weekend.

If anything changes between now and Monday morning, we will use our usual phone-blast and email notifications to let you know."

Also, we were informed today by the MPA that the start of all interscholastic spring sports has been delayed to Monday, April 27. As this situation continues to unfold by the day and the hour, we ask that you continue to check our COVID-19 communications page on our website for updates.

Peace,

John Moran
Office of the Principal

March 12, 2020

Dear Cheverus Community,

As you may be aware, this afternoon Governor Janet Mills announced that the first presumptive case of COVID-19 has been reported in Maine. Gov. Mills also said, “This is not a recommendation to close schools. The Maine Department of Education continues to work closely with the Maine CDC and schools across Maine to help them prepare for COVID-19.”

As you have seen over past days and weeks, we have been preparing for COVID-19 with decisions such as the cancellation of school trips and the implementation of enhanced cleaning protocols. Earlier today we sent you our plans for next Tuesday’s remote learning day. Now with Gov. Mills’ recommendations of limiting non-essential indoor gatherings of more than 250 people, we have decided to cancel this Sunday’s Winter Sports Banquet and Monday’s Spring Sports Night.

In this fluid and rapidly developing situation, we will continue to hold classes and function as normally as we can so long as we safely and responsibly can. We will communicate with you about decisions regarding other school functions over the coming days and weeks, and we urge you to follow our updates on the COVID-19 section of our website.

Peace,

John Moran
March 12, 2020

Dear Parents,

As of this morning, the Maine CDC has reported no confirmed cases of COVID-19 in our state. While we are hopeful that the spread of the virus will not reach our community, it is prudent to take the next steps in planning for a school closure should the need for one arise. The health and well-being of our immediate community remain our highest priority.

This coming Tuesday, March 17 Cheverus will pilot a Remote Learning Day. The purpose of this day will be to practice and train all of our faculty and students on how to use the online resources available to us in a real-world scenario. Students will connect with each class from home, using a laptop or personal device, following the student expectations listed below. Faculty and staff will be working from the Cheverus campus.

Unlike a snow day or other school interruptions, our goal with this planned exercise will be to keep the momentum of learning going even while our physical classrooms are closed. Attendance will be taken, assignments will be distributed and collected, and grades will be posted. If in the future we do have an extended school closure, we will need the full cooperation of all members of our community to continue learning online. Following our pilot day on the 17th, we will distribute the “Remote Learning Protocols” with expectations for faculty and students, class meetings and assignments in the event of an extended school closure. These protocols would go into effect on the first day of an extended school closure.

Student Expectations for this pilot of a Remote Learning Day:

- All students are expected to be logged in for every class - your teachers will be expected to take and submit attendance for each class.
- Absences due to illness need to be called into the Main Office.
- If a student is unable to log in due to technical issues, they should email their teachers if possible or call the Main Office to report the technical issue.
- Over the next few days, students and families should determine locations in their homes where remote learning can best happen. Unlike social media and Facetime with friends, remote learning needs to be approached in a more professional manner - just like school.
- If you do not feel your home will have the technical capability to meet these expectations, please inform your School Counsellor before Tuesday.
- When interacting with a teacher and classmates in Google Hangouts, students should be seated at a table or desk, showered and dressed neatly (dress code will not be required), well-rested and ready to work. Teachers will be asked to hold students accountable if these expectations are not being met.
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As this situation continues to unfold by the day and even the hour, we ask that you check our COVID19 communications page on our website frequently for updates. At the same time, we ask that you and your family continue to make responsible decisions in terms of travel, staying home when you are ill, and keeping us informed of your questions and concerns.

In the Catholic Church Lent is a time of heightened awareness of our gifts and graces, and now more than ever we must use them to the best of our abilities. The number of people who have confirmed COVID-19 cases is increasing rapidly, and the situation is fluid. In the coming days, we know that the world will experience more change than we can imagine. As the current global health crisis persists, we must support one another as we strive to keep our community safe.
March 2, 2020

Dear Cheverus Community,

I am writing to you to let you know what Cheverus High School is doing in response to the news about the novel coronavirus (abbreviated COVID-19). At this point there have been no reported cases in Maine, so we are focused on preparation and taking preventative measures. I want to encourage all students, faculty & staff to follow these simple steps to lower the risk of the spread of respiratory viruses in general.

First, stay home when you are sick. In a hard-working and high-achieving community such as Cheverus, there can be a temptation to “tough it out” and push through an illness instead of taking the time and space to heal. Though this impulse may seem noble, it puts others in the community at risk. Other recommendations from the CDC for prevention of the spread of respiratory diseases in general include:

- Avoid close contact with people who are sick.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth.
- Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue, then throw the tissue in the trash.
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces using a regular household cleaning spray or wipe.
- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, especially after going to the bathroom; before eating; and after blowing your nose, coughing, or sneezing.

If soap and water are not readily available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol. Always wash hands with soap and water if hands are visibly dirty.

- For information about hand-washing, see CDC’s Handwashing website.

The Maine Department of Education recommends that students or staff who recently traveled outside the United States and are experiencing respiratory symptoms or fever should inform their health care provider about their travel history. Health care providers should notify Maine CDC at 1-800-821-5821 and screen for routine respiratory illnesses such as influenza and respiratory syncytial virus.

As part of that effort, Maine CDC has created and regularly updates a webpage with information about the 2019 novel coronavirus. Visit their webpage at: [www.maine.gov/dhhs/coronavirus](http://www.maine.gov/dhhs/coronavirus). Additional sources of information regarding the COVID-19 virus include:


If there is a confirmed case of COVID-19 in the state of Maine, we will work in close collaboration with state officials regarding protocols. We remain proactive in our crisis management planning and will continue to communicate with the community on this issue as merited.

Peace,
John Moran, EdD
Principal