



Office of the Principal

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.

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 need to focus that awareness on the needs of our world. As a Jesuit school, we are called at such moments to be in solidarity with those who are suffering, anxious, and working furiously to care for those in need.

In prayer for our World,

John Moran