

# CHEVERUS

December 18, 2020

Dear Cheverus Community,

Following today's announcement from the Mills Administration shifting Cumberland County into a "Yellow" categorization, I'm writing to explain what this news means for Cheverus. According to the Maine Department of Education a "Yellow" categorization "suggests that that the county has an elevated risk of COVID-19 spread and that schools may consider additional precautions and/or hybrid instructional models as a way to reduce the number of people in schools and classrooms at any one time."

As you may remember from our communications back in the summer, Cheverus has been in a hybrid instructional model since the beginning of the school year. The COVID protocols we currently have in place were designed to function in both Green and Yellow categorizations. With the reduction of student desks in each classroom and the use of our gym for overflow students, our campus affords us the space to be in a hybrid instructional model and accommodate students who choose to study at home for any reason.

In a Yellow categorization, the DOE recommends that schools "suspend extracurricular or co-curricular activities including competitions between schools." Therefore, all Athletic practices, club meetings, games and performances - including those scheduled for over the Christmas Break - have been cancelled until we move back into a Green categorization.

We will assess our categorization and any further impacts on our school community before we return from the Christmas Break. In the meantime, we wish all of you a Merry Christmas, a restful and safe holiday season, and a Blessed New Year!

Peace,  
John Moran

# CHEVERUS

December 11, 2020

Dear Cheverus Community,

I'm writing as promised to update you on our progress with contact tracing following yesterday's announcement of a positive case of COVID-19 at Cheverus, as well as to inform you of our plans moving forward.

Today on campus our team of contact tracers spent much of the day calling students and families, gathering information, and determining our close-contact list. At this time if you have not been already contacted by the school you are NOT a close contact with the positive COVID19 case we identified yesterday. Many thanks to everyone in our community for your patience with this stage in our process.

Our team of contact tracers has been preparing since the summer for this scenario and trained through Johns Hopkins contact tracing course. Though even one positive case and any close contacts is difficult news to hear, I'm encouraged through this stage of the process that our COVID safety procedures and protocols worked in limiting further contact.

As we have with our safety procedures and protocols throughout this school year, today we have employed the most comprehensive interpretation of who could be considered a close contact, and as we suggested in our initial communication yesterday the person who tested positive had limited contact with other members of our community prior to the onset of symptoms.

We have also prioritized confidentiality throughout this process; beyond the information we're delivering to you today we will not be able to answer questions about our contact tracing process, the identity of the individuals involved in it nor the specifics regarding contact. We thank you for your understanding in this regard.

Though our Facilities team cleans and disinfects our entire campus every afternoon, today they undertook a deep cleaning of all rooms and hallways, and we will let the campus rest over the weekend.

Now that our contact tracing process is complete and we have assured that our campus is clean and safe, classes will resume on Monday morning for our final week before our Christmas break. All athletic practices have been cancelled over the weekend but will resume on Monday afternoon.

Nothing is more important to us than the safety of our students, faculty and staff, and we are grateful for the trust you have placed in us. If you have any questions regarding the content of this letter, please contact me directly at [moran@cheverus.org](mailto:moran@cheverus.org).

Peace,  
John Moran

# CHEVERUS

December 10, 2020

Dear Cheverus Community,

This afternoon we learned that a member of our community has tested positive for COVID-19. At this time we believe this person had limited contact with other members of our community prior to the onset of symptoms; however, out of an abundance of caution we have decided to close our campus and cancel all classes and activities on Friday, December 11th. Students are expected to check their school email and Google Classrooms for messages and assignments from their teachers. We will use this time to clean our campus and complete our contact tracing. During the day on Friday we will update our community in regards to this contact tracing and the status of our classes next week. A school representative will contact you directly if you are identified as a close contact; in the meantime we would ask that all members of our community continue to exercise the safe and responsible practices we have employed all year. Thank you in advance for your patience and understanding as we complete this work to keep our community safe.

Peace,

Dr. John Moran

Principal

# CHEVERUS

November 30, 2020

Dear Cheverus Community,

“So is this the end of snow days?” One of the most frequently asked questions since the start of the school year has been about how we will handle snow days now that we’ve adopted the use of Zoom video conferencing, Owl cameras, and the mechanics of remote learning. These technologies and this possibility have existed for years, and we’ve seen schools locally and nationally move to “remote learning days” as opposed to snow days. So is Cheverus next?

The simple answer is “no,” this is not the end of snow days at Cheverus. Besides the primary reason we cancel school due to inclement weather - safety - we also recognize that snow days offer a break from the routine for our faculty and students. These are days to catch up on assignments and correcting, shovel snow from driveways and walkways, and play with friends and family in the snow. They are gifts during the darkest days of winter.

However, the experience we have gained over the last eight months has reminded us that we are capable of teaching and learning in a variety of ways. On every day of this school year some students have chosen to study remotely. It is an option that has helped us to safely open our campus and allow families to choose what is best for them.

This winter, we will have three specific designations for school days impacted by inclement weather:

- **Snow Days-** in-person and remote classes cancelled; students should check email and Google Classrooms for assignments.
- **Delayed Start/Early Release-** in-person and remote classes occur on a modified schedule.
- **Remote Learning Days-** in-person classes cancelled; remote learning classes follow our Remote Learning Daily Schedule and Protocols.

Over the past five years, we have averaged six snow days, five late starts and one early dismissal per year. In making decisions about any delays or cancellations, we always try to make the best decision for all of our families, but with the widespread locations from which our families travel and with the inconsistencies of weather in our area, it can be hard to make the perfect decision for every family every time. Cape Elizabeth can have rain and clear roads while Westbrook is experiencing heavy snow with impassable roads.

Parents, please feel empowered and encouraged by the school to make the best decision for you and your children in regards to traveling to and from school during times of inclement weather. Even if we have not cancelled or delayed classes, if you do not feel it is safe to commute from your area please contact the Main Office to let us know your child will not be traveling to campus due to the weather.

Who knows what this winter will bring, and with the added complexity of COVID protocols, Red/Yellow/Green designations, and the possibility of shutting down to quarantine, it’s impossible to tell how we will employ the different methods at our disposal for adjusting our school schedule when the weather gets bad.

What I can assure you is that we will always make the choice that we believe is safest for your child. Thank you as always for the trust you have placed in us.

Peace,

Dr. John Moran

Principal

# CHEVERUS

October 7, 2020

Dear Cheverus Students and Parents,

What does it mean to be a Cheverus student during the time of an election? What is expected of a student in a Jesuit, Catholic school at this important time in our history? I know many of you are feeling a bit overwhelmed by the complexities and challenges of engaging your classmates and teachers in political conversations as we approach the presidential election on November 3rd. Each national debate, newspaper headline, and social media post can feel like it has the ability to disrupt our classrooms, our teams and practices, and our hallways. How do we balance our personal beliefs with respect for the beliefs of others? And at the most base level, what am I allowed to say and not say?

First, we want students to know that in the spirit of the First Amendment, members of our academic community are free to express their thoughts and opinions without fear of restraint (subject, of course, to reasonable restrictions of time, place, and manner). We want our students to be forming opinions about social and political issues, and they will learn that our school and our Church have their stances toward social issues as well (more on that below).

However, our most important goal for students in the time of an election is to learn HOW to have respectful and productive political discussions. How do we engage in dialogue when someone doesn't agree with our opinions? Do we enter these conversations with open hearts and minds as opposed to a competitive spirit, trying to change others' minds? Can we hear the opinions of those we disagree with in a manner that is respectful and kind? These are critical skills for living in a democratic country, and unfortunately our society seems to have fewer and fewer examples of how to do this in our daily lives. As a mission of the Catholic Church, Jesuit schools have a stance on social justice issues. The Universal Apostolic Preferences of the Society of Jesus prioritize the Spiritual Exercises, walking with the poor and excluded, accompanying young people in the creation of a hope-filled future, and collaborating to care for our common home. We believe these principles help us work towards the creation of a better world in a manner that is both passionate and respectful.

I would encourage our students and families to learn more about the Church's stance on issues such as the protection of human life, the environment, systemic racism, immigration, and economic justice just to name a few. I would recommend seeking that guidance from the Jesuit Conference of the United States and Canada and from the US Conference of Catholic Bishops as opposed to outside media outlets. Catholics and those who attend Catholic schools are called to educate themselves about the issues that are important to the Church and then to form our own consciences based on this discernment.

The Catholic Church - and by extension Cheverus - does not endorse any single candidate or party, and as students you represent Cheverus when you wear our uniform, use our name, or post on social media in such a manner that it is clear you are a Cheverus student. Therefore, in such situations you cannot endorse any single candidate or party either.

Your teachers, coaches, administrators and staff have chosen to work at Cheverus just as you have chosen to attend. In doing so, we all enter into a community that has a culture and a stance of its own. This does not isolate us from the larger context of Portland, Maine, nor the United States; indeed we are called as Cheverians to engage in the larger political world. Being Cheverians shapes HOW we engage with our world. We are people of faith, we care about one another as people, and we are respectful of each other. We are called to be models of political engagement in the modern world. AMDG.

Peace,

Dr. John Moran

Principal

# CHEVERUS

*Office of the Principal*

June 23, 2020

Dear Cheverus Students and Families,

During the class meetings that Fr. Pecoraro, our Dean of Students Dan Costigan and I hosted on the final day of classes this year, we addressed the two pandemics facing our world today: COVID-19 and Racism.

In regards to the first pandemic, we told students that it wasn't their job to worry about how we would return to school next fall – it was ours. This summer we have the chance to prepare our campus and ourselves for the realities of the coronavirus in ways that we didn't when we made the switch to online learning in March. Our priority in planning is to return to school with in-person classes. We are investing in technology to improve our campus' already strong network capabilities, and our classrooms are being outfitted with Meeting Owl cameras to facilitate hybrid and remote learning. Our teachers are using their experience with remote learning over the past few months and engaging in professional development to make the delivery of our curriculum even more flexible. Our Facilities team is investing in PPE and sanitation equipment, and we're thinking about how to best use our spaces to keep everyone safe while on campus. We know that there is a degree of decision-making regarding school next fall that is beyond our control, but for those parts we can control Cheverus will be prepared.

In regards to the second pandemic, Racism, we told students that they did have a role to play in preparing our campus to face this challenge. Their job over the summer is to think about the ways in which racism affects all of us, to honestly assess their reactions to racism in the past, and to contemplate what it would look like to be actively antiracist moving forward. To facilitate this work, we have chosen a summer reading book for all members of the Cheverus community that addresses the evil of racism: *All American Boys* by Jason Reynolds and Brendan Kiely. The novel tells the story of “two young men, one black and one white, whose lives are forever changed by an act of extreme police brutality.” We believe the book presents a realistic and balanced message about how racism impacts all of our lives, and we think you will find it to be a very engaging summer read. Though the book does contain some strong language, we believe that in the context of the story this language is not used gratuitously or just for effect.

When we return in the fall – however we return – we will be even better prepared as a community to face both of the pandemics threatening our nation today. Stay tuned for updates throughout the summer on our plans for returning to campus, as well as the ways in which we will engage with and discuss our Community Read, *All American Boys*. We wish you and your family a peaceful and restful summer, and we look forward to resuming our work together in the fall.

Peace,

Dr. John Moran

Principal



*Office of the President*

May 24, 2020

Dear Cheverus Community,

I want to share that we have made the difficult decision to **cancel our summer camp programs, including our multi-sport day camp, Camp Cheverus, and our boys and girls Cheverus Basketball Camps.** Before making this extremely difficult decision, we considered the advice of the CDC, Governor Mills, and the Maine Department of Education's specific guidelines regarding summer camps. I know this is difficult news to hear, as these camps are a source of great joy for campers and for our students who work at them.

Given the nature of our camps, our use of multiple facilities and shared equipment, and the current guidance on group gathering sizes and physical distancing, we simply cannot provide the same camp experience our campers and families have come to expect. The safety of our campers, the many students that work at these camps, as well as our camp administrators is paramount. While we have had to cancel the 2020 summer camp season, we plan to be back in the summer of 2021!

In addition, we want you to know that our Athletic Department is planning some free sports clinics throughout the coming 2020/2021 school year. These free clinics will include basketball as well as other sports. We will share information about these free opportunities with our camp families as soon as the details are finalized.

If you have already secured a spot at any of these camps, you will be contacted within the next few days by our Camp Director, Ms. Reid or Director of Athletics and Activities, Mrs. Ashley with details about receiving a full refund.

Students who work at these summer camps will be contacted by Mrs. Ashley or Ms. Reid about many work opportunities during the 2020/2021 school year.

As we close out the tenth week of remote learning, we are all acutely aware of the changes that the COVID-19 pandemic has had on our everyday life. We know for many of you, the cancellation of our summer program is another plan to reimagine. This is not easy. Please know that we have made this decision to protect the health and safety of all of our community members.

For Cheverus,

Fr. Robert J. Pecoraro, S.J.

President

# CHEVERUS

*Office of the Principal*

May 4, 2020

Dear Class of 2020,

First of all, many thanks to those of you who responded to the Graduation Events Survey last week. The message from your class was that you wanted to gather as many of you together as possible as soon as possible, regardless of where that needed to be. Sent just hours before Gov. Mills' announcement about the restarting Maine's economy, the intent of our survey was to include you in what decisions we were able to make over the coming weeks; however, as stated in the survey's introduction we are still bound by state and local guidelines for social gatherings in hosting any Graduation events whenever and wherever we do so.

Now of course we are aware that gatherings of over 50 people will not be possible until the fall at the earliest, so we will not be able to host events such as the Senior Prom, Baccalaureate Mass and Graduation in their traditional forms at any point this summer. My heart breaks for you and your class. Your class is the first Cheverus class that I have accompanied from freshman through senior year. I have witnessed your growth as individuals and the strong class bonds that have formed over the past four years. Life has dealt you a tough card, and though we know as Cheverians in God's care you will move on from this semester and be stronger for it, today I'm filled with great sadness about the loss of your senior spring experience. While the venue and form will change, this does not diminish the pride I have for who you have become.

I'm also writing to share what plans we have for celebrating you and your class. Assuming that Gov. Mills' plan for restarting the economy unfolds as scheduled and that we are able to transition into stage 2 of her plan by June 1st, we would like to invite you and members of your family to come to campus (one family at a time) to receive your diploma, take pictures, and allow us to celebrate you in what ways we can. In order to do this safely and in a manner that allows families time to enjoy the experience, this will be a multi-day event during the week of June 1-5. Of course, this would be an optional event and students and families who do not feel they can safely and comfortably partake would not be required to do so in order to receive their diplomas.

I know we've had to say this a lot over the last two months, but please stay tuned for more details. Over the coming weeks will work out a schedule, safety & sanitizing plans, and some ceremonial details to make this event as smooth and memorable as possible. As with the survey we sent out last week, I would encourage you to email me and share your thoughts about these plans.

Finally, let me reiterate our commitment to celebrating you as a class as soon as we can safely do so. Working with our Advancement team, discussions have already begun about events that could take place at Thanksgiving or Christmas Break when many of you will be returning home as alumni of Cheverus for the first time. Perhaps you will join the Class of 2021 at Merrill Auditorium next spring so we can recognize you there as we do our Golden Grads. You will be Stags for the rest of your lives, and you have a lifetime to celebrate this.

Peace,

Dr. John Moran

Principal



Office of the Principal

April 13, 2020

Dear Cheverus Community,

I'm writing to fill you in on some details following Fr. Pecoraro's announcement that all in-person classes will be cancelled through the end of the school year. Disappointing as this news is to all of us, making this decision now allows us to plan ahead about how to best support our students, families, faculty and staff. I'm writing to you today in anticipation of some of your questions about the weeks and months ahead.

**For Freshmen, Sophomores, Juniors and their Families:**

- We will extend our [Purple/Gold class meeting schedule](#) through June 4 and cancel all on-campus events through June 5.
- We will maintain our **traditional grading system** through the completion of the 4th quarter/2nd semester. We have seen over the past four weeks that students are working hard and teachers are capable of delivering quality instruction in this remote learning model, and we want to reward these efforts with the traditional grades we use for in-person classes.
- As we did when we cancelled the **final exams** for seniors, teachers will be asked to assign 4th quarter/2nd semester grades without the traditional seated exam period. Teachers may choose to give modified final exams during their own class periods. Teachers will communicate the expectations for 4th quarter/2nd semester grades to their students.
- The **Underclassmen Awards Ceremony** will move to the fall (date TBD). We are making plans for closing events (remote all-school Liturgy, assembly, etc.) for underclassmen on June 5 and/or over the summer.
- **Sophomore Conversations** will take place on **Wednesday, April 29** as scheduled. Details will be sent directly to sophomore students and their parents later this week.

**For our Senior Class and their Families:**

- On **Monday, April 27**, seniors will receive their instructions for completing the **Arrupe Project**. As we informed the class last week, we will not be sending seniors out to their traditional locations to complete these projects; however, we are making plans to meet the challenges of COVID-19 with the service our seniors will undertake.
- We have postponed Senior Prom- originally scheduled for Saturday, May 9 - to coincide with Graduation events (see below). We have been in communication with The Landing in Scarborough to explore alternative dates for this event.
- Baccalaureate Mass/Dinner and Graduation are still scheduled for May 31/June 1, and while we hope that these events can still occur at this time we are also making plans for alternative dates. We have been in communication with Merrill Auditorium to explore alternative dates for Graduation. As we have promised, Senior Prom, Baccalaureate Mass/Dinner and Graduation will take place as soon as they can safely be hosted.
- This Friday, April 17, is our Seniors' Last Day of Classes. Seniors should check their school email accounts at 1:00pm on Friday for some messages of thanks and congratulations on this special day.

**For all Students and Families:**

- Fr. Pecoraro will be hosting **Virtual Cafeteria** sessions for all students over Spring Break. Look for Zoom invitations to meet with our president and members of your class each day at lunch over Spring Break.
- As you have most likely heard already, the MPA has cancelled all **Spring Sports** for this year. Students received an email from Mrs. Ashley last week with instructions for our spring athletes on how to stay engaged with their coaches and teams.
- Since Fr. Pecoraro's announcement last week, there have been a few requests to access **School Lockers** to retrieve books, blazers, and other personal items. Under the current state and local restrictions it is not possible for us to have students on campus, but as soon as these restrictions are lifted we will send information about how students can safely retrieve any remaining items from their lockers.
- In coordination with both the Treasurer's Office and our Campus Ministry team, all outstanding **Work Grant & Service Hours** have been waived for the remainder of this academic year. Any questions regarding work grant hours should be directed towards Ms. Kerry Bishop ([bishop@cheverus.org](mailto:bishop@cheverus.org)), and questions about service hours can be sent to Mrs. King, Mr. Szkarlat, or Mrs. Fitzpatrick.
- At the moment our **Summer Camps & Programs** are all still scheduled to occur. Deposits for our Summer Sports and Basketball camps are completely refundable. [Click here](#) for more information about our Summer Camps and Programs.

Please feel free to contact me with other questions, comments and concerns. We will continue to keep the [COVID-19 section](#) of our website updated, and the Cheverus Newsletter will continue to be our regular source for conveying information each Sunday afternoon.

Peace,

Dr. John Moran

Principal



*Office of the President*

April 9, 2020

Dear Cheverus Community,

On Tuesday evening, Maine Department of Education Commissioner Pender Makin, with the support of Governor Mills, made the recommendation that Maine schools continue remote learning for the remainder of the 2019-2020 school year. Informed by this recommendation, I have made the decision that **Cheverus will continue remote learning for the remainder of this school year.**

Early next week, after the Easter break, **Dr. Moran will provide important details about schedules, grading, and how this decision impacts culminating events such as graduation.**

Spring on our Ocean Avenue campus brings with it such hope and excitement. The coming months are traditionally full of milestone events and celebrations. The rich traditions that define the Cheverus experience in many ways define the second semester, from welcoming the incoming freshmen, to coming together to recognize the many accomplishments of our underclassmen and of course celebrating our seniors. We know that losing these touchpoints is difficult – most especially for our seniors. As Dr. Moran said in his letter last week, we will hold graduation, prom, and baccalaureate Mass. We want to provide closure to the school year and recognize the great accomplishments of our remarkable seniors when it is safe to do so. We are working diligently to reimagine these events. While they may look different than we anticipated, ensuring these events embody the spirit of Cheverus and amplify the deep sense of community is our top priority.

Cheverus is committed to continuing meaningful academic engagement through our remote learning, in addition to caring for the person, *cura personalis*, both emotionally and spiritually. We have all been impacted by this public health crisis and will continue to be shaped by it in profound and unforgettable ways. We will accompany one another through this dark time, and I believe we will be better human beings and a stronger community having done so together.

To our students, know that you are missed. When I look at campus from the Jesuit Residence, the parking lot is empty and the campus does not have the energy and life it does when you are present. I look forward to the day when we can all be together again. To our seniors, the sting of losing the senior spring you anticipated hurts. Please know that you have a special place in my heart and in my prayers as you grieve the loss of a special time in your lives.

To parents and guardians, I want to express my deep gratitude for all you have done to support your students. There is a strong partnership between Cheverus and our parents and guardians, and I want you to know that we are here to support you, too. The Cheverus experience is often reflected on by past-parents and alumni as a family experience. We know these days of disrupted schedules, marked by high stress levels and anxiety can be difficult to navigate. Please reach out and let us know if there are ways we can support you and your student/s at this time.

I believe our mission gives us clear direction on how we proceed. We are *people for and with others*. Our entire faculty, staff, administration, campus ministers and guidance counselors are here to support our students and families – and one another. We will continue to strengthen our bonds in new ways and creatively continue to build community. We are also people of hope. This year, Holy Week takes on new meaning. Connecting with our Lord's suffering is more accessible in the midst of this global pandemic. But we cannot forget the immense hope that Easter brings. Let us create the space for the Light of Christ in our homes and in our hearts. I will remember each of you in my Easter Mass, which will be live-streamed on our Facebook page at 10 a.m. this Sunday. Together, we can celebrate the Resurrection of our Lord.

For Cheverus,

Fr. Robert J. Pecoraro, S.J.

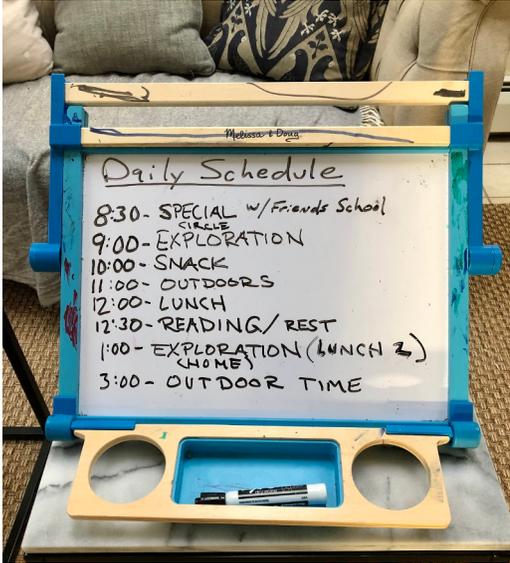
President

# CHEVERUS

Office of the Principal

April 2, 2020

Dear Cheverus Community,



How is your family adjusting to the new realities of social distancing? While much seems beyond our control at this time, the faculty and staff of Cheverus have been working hard to maintain a strong sense of connection and calm. If your world is anything like the Moran household, it's filled with new daily schedules, Zoom meetings, and attempts to get outside whenever possible. We hope you and all your family members are safe, and as best as is possible under the circumstances making the most of Lent's opportunities for prayer and reflection in anticipation of Easter.

I'm writing to you today to update you on a few decisions we've made in recent days, and to anticipate some of your questions about the weeks and months ahead. I'm sure few questions are bigger on most people's minds than...

## When will we return to school?

Following Governor Mills' announcement that social distancing guidelines will stay in place until April 30, we have adjusted our plans to resume in-person classes on April 27. As of today, **the earliest possible day we could return to classes would be Friday, May 1**, and so we will extend our Purple/Gold class rotation past Spring Break. We are also working on scenarios for returning in mid-May and for extending remote learning through the end of the school year. Our next decision regarding any of these scenarios will be made on or before **Wednesday, April 15**.

## The Arrupe Project

With any of the scenarios we're working on (including returning on May 1), the Arrupe Project will not happen in its traditional format. The Arrupe Project is a graduation requirement, so over the coming weeks we will construct a research/academically based project exploring themes of service, equity and justice for seniors to complete during the month of May. This could coincide with an online service campaign that would not put students at risk.

Disappointing as this news will be to our seniors and their families, sending seniors out into nursing homes, homeless shelters, and other schools at any point over the coming months does not seem prudent nor responsible to our students or the Greater Portland area community members they would serve. Our priority with our senior class is to successfully complete their high school careers and attend the graduation events.

## Senior Prom, Baccalaureate Mass and Dinner, and Graduation

We are certainly aware of the questions and anxieties our seniors and their families have regarding the events that culminate their time at Cheverus. Though it is still too early to determine if Senior Prom, Baccalaureate Mass and Dinner, and Graduation will occur as scheduled, we are committed to hosting all of these events as soon as we can deem it safe to do so. In our planning for May and June we are also discussing alternate dates and venues for any and all of these events.

## Spring Sports

Though officially the MPA still has April 27 listed as the start date for spring sports and just last week relaxed its restrictions on coaches contacting students before the season begins, I would expect we will hear soon about their plans to abide by this shift to April 30. If not, we would not allow our athletes to meet, practice or compete before May 1.

What else is on your mind? Please feel free to contact me with other questions, comments and concerns. We will continue to keep the [COVID-19 section](#) of our website updated, and the Cheverus Newsletter will continue to be our regular source for conveying information each Sunday afternoon.

Peace,

Dr. John Moran

Principal

# CHEVERUS

*Office of the Principal*

March 25, 2020

Dear Cheverus Community,

To begin, I want to once again thank our faculty and staff for the hours of time they have spent over the past days and weeks reconstructing their classes, connecting with students, learning new technologies, and adjusting their homes and families to fit this new reality. In a time of global crisis, we have had to ask so much of our whole Cheverus family - students and parents as well - in order to meet this unprecedented challenge, and you have all risen to the occasion. Thank you Cheverus! As we have lived into these changes, one of the concerns we have heard from faculty, students and parents has been about pacing, and there have been questions about the feasibility of maintaining our daily schedule for more than a few weeks (the length of our original closure). Now that we know we will be closed through the end of Spring Break, we will shift our daily schedule to address these concerns.

**Beginning next Monday, March 30, we will shift into the daily schedule and rotation listed here:**

Purple Day (Wednesday schedule)	Gold Day (Thursday schedule)
8:00am Period C	8:00am Period D
9:00am Period A	9:00am Period B
10:00am Community Period w/HR	10:00am Community Period w/HR
11:00am Period G	11:00am Period H
Noon Period E	Noon Period F
1:00pm End of School Day	1:00pm End of School Day

Note: College Advising will meet once a week on the 1st Gold or Purple day that week.

We hope that this revised schedule and calendar will feel more manageable and sustainable than our current schedule. One of our main goals with this shift is to allow students, teachers, and families to live balanced, healthy lives during these stressful times, so please feel encouraged to take advantage of any opportunities this schedule allows to attend to your physical, social and emotional needs.

We will continue to keep the [COVID-19 section](#) of our website updated, and the Cheverus Newsletter will continue to be published on Sunday afternoons.

Peace,

Dr. John Moran  
Principal



*Office of the President*

March 20, 2020

Dear Cheverus Community,

I write to you with an important update regarding the continuation of the remote learning protocol that was successfully launched on Tuesday, March 17. As the COVID-19 pandemic has spread, government and health officials have taken increasingly more aggressive steps to “flatten the curve.” This week, Governor Mills issued a civil state of emergency and prohibited all gatherings of more than 10 people until further notice, mandating the latest U.S. CDC’s guidance on gatherings.

Over the course of this week, I have had numerous conversations with the Cheverus leadership team as well as my colleagues at Jesuits schools around the country, many in the hardest-hit areas of our nation. With the health, safety, and well-being of our students, faculty, and staff the highest priority, I have concluded that the best course of action is to extend the period for remote learning and cancel all in-person classes until April 24, 2020. The Cheverus campus will remain closed to the public during this time.

St. Ignatius stated in the founding document of the Society of Jesus that a Jesuit must be willing to serve, “according to what will seem expedient to the glory of God and the common good.” Taking this safety measure to extend the remote learning period is done for the benefit of the common good, to protect the most vulnerable among us.

Dr. Moran will be sending a letter shortly that will outline the logistics of the coming weeks. We will continue with remote learning and we will provide the academic rigor, student support, and love for our students that is synonymous with a Cheverus education.

As we end a week that marks a watershed moment in our history, I want to recognize the flexibility, resiliency, and dedication of our faculty, staff, students, and families. This has been a tumultuous week. It is one that has upended normalcy, yet clarified what gives our lives the deepest meaning: faith, family, friends, our health, and our community. Thank you for your patience and support.

This is the season of Lent. This year, these 40 days are marked by the coronavirus and uncertainty, but we remain a people of hope. Hope is a virtue that will be a source of strength in a time of need and will bring us together as a people, bound by God’s love. Be assured of my prayers for you and your family.

For Cheverus,

Fr. Robert J. Pecoraro, S.J.

President



*Office of the Principal*

March 20, 2020

Dear Cheverus Community,

I'm writing to fill you in on some details following Fr. Pecoraro's announcement that all in-person classes will be cancelled through the end of April Break. This news allows us to plan ahead and make sound decisions about how to best support our students, families, faculty and staff.

First, in order to allow our teachers more time to prepare, train and adjust to this lengthened period of remote learning, we will host a professional development and planning day for teachers next **Tuesday, March 24**. This means that no video-conferencing (Google Meet, Zoom, etc.) will occur next Tuesday; however, students will still be expected to work on assignments from teachers in preparation for classes on Wednesday.

Other impacts of the cancellation of in-person classes through April 24 include:

**Senior Exams:** the senior exams scheduled for April 14-18 have been cancelled. Teachers will be asked to assign 4th quarter grades to senior classes without the traditional seated exam period. Teachers may choose to give modified final exams during their own class periods.

**April Calendar Events:** while most events on our April calendar will be cancelled or postponed, Good Friday, Easter Monday, and Spring Break will remain as school holidays; classes will not meet during these scheduled school breaks. We will continue to keep the COVID-19 section of our website updated, and the Cheverus Newsletter will continue to be published on Sunday afternoons.

**AP Exams:** today we learned from the College Board that AP exams will not be administered in-person as they traditionally have been. The College Board is working on plans to allow students to take AP exams at home and will release more information about the schedule and details of such exams by April 3. According to the College Board website students wishing to cancel their AP registration can do so at no charge, and for this year we will drop our requirement that all students enrolled in an AP class must take the exam. [Click here to read more about AP exams.](#)

**Beyond April:** we are aware of the questions and anxieties regarding the events of May and beyond, particularly for our seniors. We are working on contingency plans for the Arrupe Project and other senior events should this closure go beyond the end of April Break. We will communicate any changes to our May/June calendar as soon as we feel we can confidently do so.

Finally, I want to share my enormous gratitude to our teachers and students. Over the past week as our personal and professional lives were turned upside down, our teachers came together, figured out how to transition the great work they do with students into this new reality, and pushed forward with immense energy and courage. Through this transition we've seen so much new thinking, creative approaches, and collaboration. And our students have risen to the occasion as well.

THANK YOU CHEVERUS!

Peace,  
John Moran  
Principal

# CHEVERUS

*Office of the Principal*

March 17, 2020

Dear Cheverus Community,

I said to my wife before leaving home this morning that it strangely felt like the first day of school. So far the reports have been great from teachers, students and parents regarding the experience of working virtually through Google Meet and Google Classroom. We had 97% of our students check-in for homeroom - significantly higher than what we would normally have on campus at this time of year - and throughout the day teachers reported that they were able to meet with most if not all of their students following the protocols we've put in place.

This isn't to say there weren't some individual technical difficulties nor that there won't be any issues moving ahead, but it was an encouraging start.



**If you experienced any problems on your end, please email your teachers if possible or call the Main Office to report the issue.**

**If you do not feel your home has the technical capability to make this shift to remote learning, please inform your School Counselor.**

Please note that at this point our campus - including our playing fields - is closed to students and the general public. The Main Office is being staffed remotely and our exterior doors are locked. If students need materials from their lockers at this point, you will need to contact a member of the administration to access campus.

We will continue to keep the [COVID-19 section](#) of our website updated, and the Cheverus Newsletter will continue to be published on Sunday afternoons. Thank you, Cheverians, for stepping up as we knew you would!

Happy St. Patrick's Day!

Dr. John Moran  
Principal



*Office of the Principal*

March 16, 2020

Dear Cheverus Community,

**Please watch this video message from Dr. Moran:**

<https://www.loom.com/share/db17433bf1b343058382a29e70d065ee>

**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 asserted 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 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

# CHEVERUS

*Office of the 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



*Office of the President*

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

# CHEVERUS

*Office of the Principal*

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

# CHEVERUS

*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

# CHEVERUS

*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.

# CHEVERUS

*Office of the Principal*

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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

# CHEVERUS

*Office of the Principal*

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:

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html>

<https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019>

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