



Mater Dei Catholic School

2018 National Blue Ribbon School

The President and Principal's Pen

April 13, 2020

Dear Parents,

Happy Easter! The celebration of Easter was certainly different for all of us this year. Yet, we commemorated Jesus' Resurrection to New Life yesterday, as we do this time every year. The sun was shining and Jesus' ultimate sacrifice opened the gates of heaven for each and every one of us! We are truly blessed to be people who believe in Easter and the hope that Easter brings to our homes.

You and your family had a special place in the hearts of our faculty and staff on Easter Sunday and on the holy days leading to Easter. Holy Week and the darkness of the tomb takes on new meaning for all of us as we spend these days in our homes away from other family members, friends, and our school community. But let us not forget what our faith has taught us. Just as the stone was rolled away for Jesus to rise from the dead, the stone of this pandemic will be rolled away and we too will experience our own resurrection. Hopefully, this experience will bring a renewed understanding of all that is important in life and a greater sense of hope for all people. This experience will make us stronger as people of God and it will teach us that we are capable of anything as long as we put our faith and trust in Jesus, our Savior.

As a community of faith, we can do anything!!! I have the utmost confidence in us as a strong faith-filled community. We have continued to live the mission of Mater Dei since March 12th with a renewed commitment and an energy that we didn't even know we were capable of before COVID-19. Parents and students learned how to navigate the eLearning Program with many parents working side by side with their child while continuing to accomplish their own work. Teachers have worked hard to implement new teaching strategies to continue to provide a quality Catholic education program for the children of Mater Dei!

Governor Wolf's announcement on Holy Thursday to close our school buildings for the remainder of the school year renewed our commitment to you and your children. Although the building is closed, we will continue to provide your child/children with a quality Catholic education remotely. We

will offer spiritual, educational, and social opportunities for the children of Mater Dei by interacting on a daily basis with our beautiful children. Over the next several weeks, you will have an opportunity to conference with the teachers from Pre-K through Grade 8. We will continue to provide opportunities for us to grow as a community by initiating spiritual, social, and service events for the children, in addition to the eLearning Program.

In order for us to regroup as a faculty and staff, we are making changes to this week's schedule. We will not be posting any lessons tomorrow, **Tuesday, April 14th**. We have an early Faculty Meeting in the morning followed by a trip to school to secure the rest of the educational materials the teachers need to complete the school year. In some cases, teachers have notified parents that additional student books will be available after 2:00 tomorrow afternoon. If you did not hear from your child's teacher, you do not need to pick up any additional materials.

The students' books will be located on grade tables in the school yard. Your child's books will be in a pile not touching any other students' supplies. Please observe all social distancing regulations while picking up your child/children's necessary texts. It is recommended that all parents wear some type of mask when you come to the school yard.

The eLearning schedule for the week of April 13, 2020 is as follows:

Wednesday, April 15th through Friday, April 17th: Students in Pre-K through Grade 6 will participate in the eLearning Program.

Wednesday, April 15 and Friday, April 17th: Seventh and Eighth grade Students, Parents, and Teachers will have [virtual conferences](#) via Zoom.

<https://www.signupgenius.com/findasignup>

Thursday, April 16th: Students in Grade 7 & 8 will participate in eLearning.

If you have any questions regarding the schedule, the eLearning Program, or other questions, please do not hesitate to reach out to us. We are happy to assist you. Please reach out by email. If you would prefer a phone call, please let us know.

We are grateful to the many families who have reached out to express their sincere gratitude to our teachers for their dedicated service and commitment to your children. Your words of support and thanksgiving are most appreciated by all of us!

May God continue to bless all of our families and keep them safe!

Most sincerely,

Miss Diane E. McCaughan
President

Miss Elizabeth A. Waltrich
Principal