

A Sponsored Ministry of the Sisters of Saint Joseph since 1920

Dear NFA Parent/Guardian,

Good morning! As you read in my email last evening, we received wonderful news that the test results of the NFA family member came back negative for COVID-19.

As these days of uncertainty continue, we want to keep in touch and keep the lines of communication open with you. I would like to share our decision to close for the next two weeks, beginning Monday, March 16, to Friday, March 27. We will continue to closely monitor and make informed decisions on any additional schedule changes. We want to give you enough time to make arrangements for child care, and we apologize in advance for any inconvenience this may cause you and your family.

Why are we closing?

In an effort to curb the transmission of the virus, on March 12, Pennsylvania Governor Tom Wolf ordered the closure of schools, gyms, community centers, and entertainment venues in Montgomery County for the next 14 days. Since our school is in close proximity to Montgomery County, and with many of our families, faculty and staff residing there, we made this decision based on Governor Wolf's order. To that end, all school events will be cancelled until the end of March.

What does this mean for our family?

We are all transitioning to significant change, but we all want to continue our relationship through this challenging time, keeping learning alive, and students feeling engaged, loved, and supported.

What will distance learning mean for my child?

We are finalizing our plan for distance learning that will be aligned with realistic expectations for teachers and families in various situations. There will be a specific structure per grade level that will be shared shortly. Below is some preliminary information that we can share.

Communication about Academics:

Pre-K to Grade 3: plans will be communicated through Seesaw (Please check every day.)

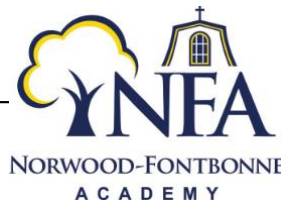
Grades 4 to 8: plans will be communicated through Sycamore HW portal (Please check every day)

Defined Teacher Office Hours: Teachers will be available to respond to emailed questions and concerns in real time.

Defined Tech Help Desk Hours: Our Tech Team will be available to respond to emails regarding any tech issues you may encounter in real time.

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Teachers and staff will collaborate remotely Monday, March 16, as they continue planning instructional lessons, assignments/tasks, or suggested activities for students to engage in learning while at home.

Distance learning will begin on Tuesday, March 17, for our students. Later today, you will receive a separate email with a link to a form if you will be requesting an electronic device for your child/ren to complete assignments at home. Pick up for these devices will be at several convenient times on Wednesday, March 18. Parents will be asked to complete a Device Checkout Agreement for each device at that time. All devices will be wiped down before you receive them.

How can NFA be of assistance to your family?

As we are inundated with information from all directions pertaining to COVID-19, please be mindful of caring for your emotional wellness as well as your physical self. This is the first time in their lives that the state has mandated closures of schools to mitigate the transmission of a virus, and it seems daunting to us adults. This feeling is inevitably transferred to our children. Please reach out and try to use Kendall Ireland, our School Counselor, and Bridget Bradenham, our School Nurse, as resources.

While parents are home, we ask that you talk to your children about COVID-19. We have added videos as well as [links on the nurse's website](#) that are great resources to start the discussion. In addition, [this is a link](#) to the National Institute of School Psychologists and it suggests age-appropriate ways to approach the topic.

As we have encouraged before, washing your hands, using alcohol-based hand sanitizers (if soap and water are not available), avoiding touching your face, covering coughs or sneezes with your elbow, cleaning surfaces frequently, and staying home if you are sick are all ways to limit the spread of COVID-19.

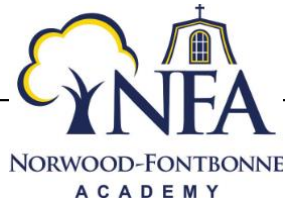
Social distancing is another way that we can take responsibility to limit the spread of the virus. We are realistic and understand that two weeks with social distancing is difficult, maybe impossible with small children. Therefore, we encourage outdoor play gathering and limiting the amount of large-group interactions. Archbishop Nelson Perez has announced that Catholics are dispensed from attending Mass until the spread of the virus is limited.

Communication:

Our schedule of communication will continue and expand during this period of continuous learning away from campus. Each morning we will share a daily prayer, reflection, and thoughts to kick off the day. As needed, afternoon updates of specific topics will be shared, along with

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video and audio messages from me and the rest of our team. The VCF will be suspended for these next two weeks, beginning today.

First and foremost we need to each take this time to care for ourselves and our families by supporting positive physical and emotional well being. Social distancing doesn't change our need to be present to each other in heart and mind. Everybody, take a deep breath, move forward, and we will be all the more grateful when we are back together. Campus is way too quiet.

Blessings and peace,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ryan', is positioned below the text 'Blessings and peace,'.

Ryan