



DIOCESE OF SAN JOSE

March 11, 2020

Dear Diocese of San Jose Catholic School Families,

We understand that the outbreak of the Coronavirus (COVID-19) has created a great deal of concern and uncertainty. The safety and wellbeing of our students and communities is our top priority. The Diocese of San José continues to follow the guidance of the California State and Santa Clara County Public Health Departments that broad school closures are not recommended at this time. We continue to assess the situation daily.

Our Diocesan Catholic schools have been actively implementing the State and County Health Departments' school protocols to reduce the spread of Coronavirus while ensuring meaningful learning and instruction. These protocols include:

- providing explicit and repeated instruction on the protocols for personal hygiene and illness
- increasing daily disinfecting of high contact surfaces and materials
- limiting the use of equipment that is designed to be used by more than one person at a time
- minimizing the number of classroom and school activities where students, families, and staff are working within arm's length of one another
- reducing student body gatherings by staggering recess, lunch, and Mass schedules
- postponing, canceling, or determining an alternative format for all school events and assemblies through the end of Easter Break (April 19)
- postponing or canceling all fields trips and inter-school sports events through the end of Easter Break (April 19)

As of today, there are no reports of confirmed Coronavirus (COVID-19) cases at any Diocese of San Jose Catholic school. Still, the Diocesan Department of Catholic Schools is working closely with each Catholic school's administration to be prepared if the situation should change. Each school is developing digital or distance learning plans in the event a school closure happens. If an employee or student in a specific school is confirmed to have COVID-19, the Diocese of San Jose will work with the County Public Health Department to determine, based on the specific facts and circumstances of that case, whether closure of that school is warranted.

We ask parents to partner with us in ensuring the continued well-being of our community with careful at-home monitoring of your family's health. If your child is not feeling well, he/she should stay at home. If you believe your child has been directly exposed to COVID-19, you should contact your health provider and notify your school immediately. If you feel it is in the best interest of your family to keep your student at home, absences will be excused.



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We understand some children have underlying health conditions, such as a weakened immune system, that put them at a higher risk. Caregivers of children with underlying health conditions should consult with their healthcare provider about whether their children should stay home.

We are monitoring the situation daily, in communication with the County Public Health Department, and will work with our Catholic schools to adjust our protocols as the situation changes or new Public Health guidance becomes available.

We encourage you to visit the Diocese of San Jose [webpage](#) that is being updated regularly with information about the precautionary measures being taken at our schools and parishes in response to the Coronavirus.

Thank you for granting our Catholic schools the privilege of partnering with you in the education of your child. Know that we hold you in prayer and ask that you join us in prayer for our wider community.

Yours in Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Oscar Cantú".

Bishop Oscar Cantú

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jennifer A. Beltramo".

Jennifer Beltramo, Superintendent of Catholic Schools