

Good afternoon Parents/Guardians!

I hope this email finds you and your family healthy and well. I just want to take this opportunity to update everyone on the next month or so. As you know, we will be providing our education through virtual learning until further notice. On Monday of this week, Gov. Murphy said that schools can expect a “long, extended closure”. Yesterday he said, regarding the status of schools, “We will not revisit this question again until at least April 17th.” He continued, “The decision to reopen will be based on careful discussions with our public health and safety experts and with our educators and districts, and will be guided by the facts on the ground.”

This situation is not ideal and we are saddened by the news, as we would like to be back to school as usual, sooner than later. However, we are *Spartan Strong* and will carry on productively, effectively, and in accordance with our mission, philosophy, values, and high standards.

Today is the **end of the 3rd quarter**. You will not be able to access the grading module of PowerSchool for much of next week while teachers calculate and verify their grades. The grading module will reopen to view report cards on Friday, April 3. This will in no way impact the students’ ability to access PowerSchool Learning and their virtual lessons.

The following week is **Holy Week**. We have decided to use Wednesday, April 8, as a Day of Prayer. Our students will not participate in community service projects or retreats as was the plan, but will be asked to participate in a mini prayer service to reflect on Holy Week and the Passion of Christ. More information is forthcoming. Seniors will not be affected by this change.

**Easter break** will begin after the prayer service and go through Sunday, April 19. There will be no virtual learning lessons during this time. Virtual learning will resume on Monday, April 20, unless otherwise notified by Gov. Murphy and the Diocese of Metuchen.

Unfortunately, this extended closure will continue to impact other planned activities and events. Please know that we are making every attempt to showcase our students’ gifts and talents virtually or at a later time. Our students’ work is impressive and we hope to share their successes and growth in some capacity. Nonetheless, certain events will be cancelled. To follow are the **latest updates**: (UFN = Until Further Notice)

Fashion Show	03/29	Postponed, planning for June
First Wednesday	04/10	Light day of school work. Faculty meeting still on.
Spanish & French Honor Society Inductions	04/02	Postponed UFN

Grandparents' Mass & Reception	04/03	Mass & Reception Cancelled Grandparents will still be celebrated! More information to come.
Antioch Retreat	04/03-05	Cancelled
Spartan Parent Club Meeting	04/07	6:30 p.m. Meeting will be held via video conference. Conference details to come.
Spartan Cheer Clinic	04/18	Postponed UFN
Art Show/Coffee House	04/24	Evening Cancelled Seeking a virtual option.
Jazz Supper Club	04/25	Cancelled
Visions Retreat	05/08-10	Cancelled
Garage Sale	05/15-16	Cancelled

The **Spring Musical**, *Little Shop of Horrors*, is officially canceled. However, we have good news! Their dress rehearsal was recorded. The Music Department will release this quality video recording on the website in a short time. This is a must see! Director, Mr. VanDoren '89, who has been directing Immaculata's musicals for over 20 years now, enthusiastically shared during the dress rehearsal, "I think this is the best musical we have ever done!" I can't wait to see it myself on the big screen - movie night!

The **spring sports** season is dependent upon our return to school. Mr. Gambino is in touch with all of the decision makers in high school athletics. As soon as anything changes, an announcement will be made by the Athletic Office.

Regarding **academics**, we are so grateful to our teachers for their diligence in transferring all they do to a virtual environment. This was and continues to be a significant undertaking and has been implemented under rapid-fire circumstances. We are also proud of our students and how they have embraced this environment for the time being. As we begin the 4th quarter, given the new virtual learning environment, teachers are able to make adjustments to their individual grading system. If they choose to do so, they will communicate those changes directly to their students. In consideration of the stress that everyone is experiencing at this time for many different reasons, we will not have **final exams** this year. Exam days for both the senior exam period and the underclassmen exam period will become instructional days. On these days, student attendance is required.

Of course, **senior events and ceremonies** are on everyone's mind. Know that we want to have a proper celebration and send off of our seniors. They deserve it! However, we are on hold right now for all senior-related activities. Events will be impacted by our ability to return to school. We hope to either continue with our plans or to make slight adjustments to all plans. At this time, it is too soon to say what is going to be. Please be assured that we are committed to having a graduation ceremony at a minimum. We will keep you informed as things progress.

Immaculata **Summer Camp registration is open**. Register today for your middle school-aged children and tell your neighbors! See our website for all of the camps we are offering this summer. We have the best coaches and music instructors/directors in the State! Reserve your child a place.

In a time like this, **prayer is so important**. As Jesus said, "For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there I am in the midst of them." (Matthew 18:20) Please join us for community prayer, "together apart". Fr. Tholitho is leading the Chaplet of Divine Mercy on Tuesdays at 3:00 p.m. and the Rosary on Thursdays at 7:00 p.m. The Diocese of Metuchen is leading the Stations of the Cross on Fridays during Lent at 3:00 p.m. The links will be shared on our website and via our social media sites. Please join us.

Thank you for your support and prayers!

God bless you and stay healthy.

Joan M. Silo, Ed.S.  
Head of School