

March 24, 2020



Letter from the Principal



Dear St. Mark's Families,

Fear is natural, faith is supernatural. Remember what God's Word says, "Have no anxiety at all, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, make your requests known to God?" Philippians 4:6

Last night, the Idaho State Board of Education approved a "soft close" of the state's schools until April 20. This means Idaho students, including ours at St. Mark's, will not return to school until at least Monday, April 20. The board will reassess and determine if this closure needs to be extended beyond this. "Soft" close means that they are expecting some services and some education to continue.

The full article is here: <https://boardofed.idaho.gov/resources/covid-19-school-operations-guidance/>

I have every confidence in our teachers to dedicate the same passion for delivering high-quality instruction remotely as they do in the classroom that will continue March 30th.

Our superintendent, Dr. Sarah Quilici, will virtually meet with all Catholic school principals this Friday to assess this issue, address concerns, and plan for the weeks to come.

Although today is the last day of our Novena, please continue to pray often for our families, our school, our community and our world.

Novena

Lord Jesus Christ, our Divine Physician, we ask you to guard and protect us from Coronavirus COVID-19 and all serious illness. For all that have died from it, have mercy; for those that are ill now, bring healing. For those searching for a remedy, enlighten them; for medical caregivers helping the sick, strengthen and shield them. For those working to contain the spread, grant them success; for those afraid, grant peace. May your precious blood be our defense and salvation. By your grace, may you turn the evil of disease into moments of consolation and hope. May we always fear the contagion of sin more than any illness. We abandon ourselves to your infinite mercy. Amen.

O Mary, Mother of God, through the years your people have called on your intercession in times of epidemic and illness. We call on you now, as our mother, and ask that you pray for us, that we might find healing and refuge, and a quick end to this time of illness. Be to us truly Our Lady of Prompt Succor and draw us ever closer to your Son, the source of all healing and consolation. Our Lady of Prompt Succor, hasten to help us. Amen.

(Prayers from Pedro de la Cruz & the Archdiocese of New Orleans)

Please continue to enjoy your spring break and to make happy memories.

Peace,

Donna Gordon
Principal