



DIocese OF BRIDGEPORT

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OFFICE OF THE
SUPERINTENDENT
OF SCHOOLS

March 20, 2020

Dear Parents,

As we wind down our first week of distance learning, I can't help but be proud of the way in which this has been handled by administrators, teachers, parents, and students. Of course the transition has not always been perfect and we still have some hiccups to deal with as we enter week two, but given the unprecedented nature and the speed with which we needed to transition, I can't say enough about how grateful I am to our personalized learning team, our principals and, most especially, our teachers.

I also realize the additional stress this may have added at home, so I thank you as well for your flexibility and patience this past week as we implemented our remote learning plans. We will continue to support teachers and parents as we move into week two and remind you that we have established a virtual help desk for teachers and parents. We will do our best to provide technical and content help as well as answer general questions about best practices. We are also establishing discussion groups for parents who might want to share what they are doing to manage this situation at home. Information about these groups and links to helpful sites can be found on the dedicated webpage which can be found at

<https://www.dioceseofbridgeportcatholicschools.com/coronavirus-updates/>.

Additionally, I want to assure you that we understand the financial stress some families may be experiencing and we encourage you to work with your school principal should you need an extension on making tuition payments. In the meantime, we have suspended late fees charged through FACTS. This suspension of fees will last, at least, until May 1st.

I know the burning question is "when can we return to normalcy" and I wish I could give you a definite answer. As of now, we are hoping to reopen April 1st but I think we all realize there is a good chance that this could be pushed out further as it already has been in some public school districts. I will send out a follow up communication next week with an update.

As we are in the height of our new enrollment season, I encourage you to continue sharing pictures and positive messages on social media and ask that you share the good news about Catholic schools with friends and relatives. Even though our buildings are closed, school administrators are still working and would love to talk to potential new families.

Again, please accept my great gratitude for your continued patience and flexibility and let us keep praying for all those whose families are affected by this pandemic. May God bless you and may Our Lady continue to shower Her blessings on our Catholic school community.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "S. F. Cheeseman", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Dr. Steven F. Cheeseman
Superintendent of Schools