

March 13, 2020

Dear St. Robert School Families,

The health of our students, staff, families, communities and most vulnerable is of utmost importance and we support all efforts to reduce the impact of COVID-19. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention released guidelines for school districts on school closures on March 13, 2020. In consideration of the unprecedented situation in Wisconsin and the nation, both the North Shore and Washington Ozaukee Public Health Departments support “medium length” school closures for schools to mitigate the spread of COVID-19 in our communities.

St. Robert School, along with the following school districts: Brown Deer, Cedarburg, Fox Point-Bayside, Germantown, Glendale-River Hills, Grafton, Maple Dale-Indian Hill, Nicolet, Northern Ozaukee, Port Washington, Mequon-Thiensville, Shorewood, and Whitefish Bay will be closing for the next four weeks with the possibility of extension. This means that our school, along with others, will be closing for a four week period beginning Monday, March 16, 2020 with school tentatively resuming April 13, 2020. Note that this reflects a change in the spring break calendared for the week of April 13th. Any further adjustments to school calendars will be handled by individual school districts through local control. Each district has an individual plan to navigate this closure.

As of today, details of our plan include the following:

- Teachers are working today and Monday preparing packets of homeschool activities that will include PDFs - playtime, downtime, family time
- Families will be scheduled a drop-in window of time on Tuesday to pick up books, materials, and first-week packets
- Formal conferences will not be held next Friday
- Report cards will be delayed by a week to allow teachers to divert their attention to planning homeschool learning

The impact of a single case in any one school in a district is extremely significant. If one student or staff member becomes infected, everyone who was in close contact will need to be quarantined for 14 days. Close contacts include anyone who spends time, within six feet, of the positive case. When considering the proximity of a school environment, the contacts and exposures grow exponentially, and quickly. We are supporting closures before community transmission is confirmed to greatly reduce further spread of the COVID-19 in the community. We recommend that you follow the CDC and Public Health Department guidelines regarding social distancing and group size for gathering.

We also recommend that you lean on each other to create networks of support, recognizing that many parents will not have the ability to stay home from work for four weeks or the resources to pay for child care.

I'm sure you have many unanswered questions. I will provide additional details as they unfold in the days ahead.

With prayers for the wisdom and fortitude to navigate this unprecedented challenge.

Sincerely,

Lauren Beckmann
Principal
St. Robert School