

WEEKLY UPDATE



Next week's calendar:

Pursuant to the directive of Governor Hogan and the State of Maryland, and by order of Archbishop William Lori and the Archdiocese of Baltimore, MSCS will be closed from March 16-27, 2020, in response to the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak.



Jesus Christ, you traveled through towns and villages "curing every disease and illness." At your command, the sick were made well. Come to our aid now, in the midst of the global spread of the coronavirus, that we may experience your healing love.

Whether we are home or abroad, surrounded by many people suffering from this illness or only a few, Jesus Christ, stay with us as we endure and mourn, persist and prepare. In place of our anxiety, give us your peace.

~Amen.



Super Slades Selected 3-13-2020

Peter Fry - Cooperation
Julia Topper - Honesty
Naomi Moore - Self-knowledge
Jordan Middleton - Hard Work
Brooke Maenner- Hard Work
Brody McKenna - Self-control

Volume III, Issue 3 I

March 13, 2020

Important News & Notes:

Dear Parents,

I would like to thank you for your patience and support as we navigate these unprecedented times. In lieu of the regular weekly update, I am going to take this opportunity to share our protocol for the continuation of learning during the extended closure, as well as other information related to our school operations.

Instructional Information:

Because we all value learning, we want to keep our students focused and engaged with their studies during this time. Therefore, all teachers will be providing work for students throughout the extended closure. Some books and materials were sent home with students yesterday, and others will be coming home today. Any books or materials sent home must come back to school on the day we return.

For students who were absent today, materials and progress reports may be picked up in the front office on Monday, March 16, 2020, between the hours of 8:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m. Due to a deep cleaning that our maintenance staff will be doing over the next two weeks, this is the only day when materials can be picked up. If you are unable to pick up materials on Monday, please reach out to your child's teacher(s) for assistance.

Teachers have received curricular support materials from Archdiocesan content experts, which they will use in the creation of their home activities. Teachers will be posting assignments with instructions daily over the next two weeks on their homework sites. Assignments will be posted for all classes (core and specials) between the hours of 6 p.m. - 8 a.m. the next morning. This way, students will receive a steady stream of work to do each day. More time will be spent on ELA and math; however, Spanish (grades 4 -8), religion, science, and social studies will be provided, as well. Specials teachers will post one activity per week for students.

Pre-K4 and kindergarten students can expect to receive up to an hour of work each day. Primary and intermediate students (grades 1-5) can expect to receive up to three hours of work each day, while middle school students (grades 6-8) can expect to receive up to four hours of work each day. The amount of work will vary depending upon the types of assignments and the needs of the students.

Teachers will indicate when an assignment is due. Depending upon grade level, some assignments may be held until we return to school, whereas some assignments may be submitted electronically. If an assignment is being submitted electronically, and you are experiencing difficulty sending it, please email the teacher.

Teachers will be available via email during the hours of 9 a.m.-11 a.m. and 12:30-2:30 p.m. each day to answer assignment questions that you or your students may have. If an unforeseen problem occurs (such as an illness of teacher or family member), the teacher will post other times on their homework sites when they can be available. You can certainly email at other times during the day, but know that you may not receive a response until the next day.



Mission Statement

The mission of Monsignor Slade Catholic School is to promote Catholic faith and intellectual development in our students. We do this by teaching about and modeling the precepts of the Catholic faith, as well as challenging our students with a rigorous course of study. We do this so that they will use their faith, knowledge, and skills to shape their futures positively and work for the benefit of the whole society.

Work that is assigned to students will be either graded for completeness or correctness. Teachers will indicate in the directions for the activity, how it will be graded. PowerSchool will be updated weekly by the teachers for students in grades 3-8.

We understand that every family's situation will be different throughout the extended closure, and that typical illnesses may prevent your child from completing assignments. Please contact your child's teacher with any concerns regarding any problems you may encounter.

Frequently Asked Questions:

Many of you have been posing questions about the impact of the extended closure on school events and our Easter holiday. Unfortunately, we do not have many definitive answers, but we will always share with you what we can when we can.

Q. How will the extended closure affect spring break?

A. At this time, we do not know how the AOB will respond with regard to the break. We do know that the AOB will do what they can not to impact the break because they do understand that families and staff members have planned vacations. However, with the uncertainty of the current situation, we don't know for sure at this time what will happen.

Q. How will the extended closure affect the end of the school year date?

A. At this time, there is no plan for the State to "forgive" the extended closure days as there are a mandatory required number of teaching/learning days in the school year. So, unfortunately, we will need to wait to see how many total extended closure days we accumulate and where the schedule can be adjusted to determine whether we will extend the school year.

Q. How will the extended closure affect the IOWA standardized testing dates?

A. Currently, the tests are postponed until possibly mid- to late April. Once we are back in school, the AOB will finalize the dates.

Q. Will we be allowed to hold any evening meetings at the school during the extended closure, since we would have less than 250 people in attendance?

A. No meetings, sporting events, social events, or Masses will be held in the building between March 16, 2020, and March 27, 2020.

Q. Will the 65th Anniversary celebrations be cancelled?

A. At this time, the 65th anniversary celebrations, scheduled for April 24-26, 2020, are not cancelled. If it becomes necessary to either postpone or cancel the events, we will let you know in a future communication.

As information becomes available, we will make every effort to contact you. We anticipate that there may be a need for various communications during the extended closure; therefore, we will not be publishing a regular weekly update on March 20th or March 27th.

If you have concerns over the next few weeks, please do not hesitate to reach out to your child's teachers or to the administration. I wish all of you well and will be praying for the health and well-being of our school community and the nation. Please take care of yourselves and each other.

Sincerely,

Alexa L. Cox, Principal