

WEEKLY UPDATE



Volume III, Issue 32

March 20, 2020

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.

Dear Parents,

As stated in last Friday's email to you, we are going to forgo our regular weekly update. However, it is as important as ever to be in touch with our school community, so until further notice, I will be communicating through a weekly letter.

I would like to begin by expressing my sincere appreciation to all of you, parents, students, teachers, and staff, for your continued support and patience as we persevere through this difficult time. The number of emails that I have received from you are so positive and uplifting. It is apparent that everyone is pitching in to support the children's learning. While I know that we are all experiencing added stress for a variety of reasons related to our extended closure, I am deeply appreciative of the positive way our school community is responding.

In an effort to add a bit of normalcy, I have been recording our morning daily prayers, as well as the Pledge of Allegiance, and posting them on our website and social media sites. I hope you and your children are enjoying them, and that they are a way for your children to begin their at-home school day.

While we always recognize parents as being their children's primary teachers, nevermore than now is that true. In addition to your normal responsibilities, you have assumed the daily role of para educators, as well, which I recognize as no small undertaking, so thank you. Please see the attached information from our school counselor regarding emotional support for your children. I also want to thank our teachers who have truly risen to the challenge of ensuring the students remain engaged and learning. Within a matter of days, they employed sweeping changes to the way they present the curriculum and interact with students.

Please know that each day I am in contact with the teachers to talk about progress of instruction. We are making every effort to ensure that the children receive essential elements of the curriculum without overwhelming them or you. I have instructed teachers to post only one day of work at a time. In doing so, you and your children will be able to focus solely on that one day without worry about what is to come. I have also asked that teachers to collaborate closely with their teaching partners to ensure that students are not assigned more work than can be accomplished within the time frames published to you in my letter regarding our instructional protocol. The teachers are and will remain flexible with regard to the students' needs, especially in light of current circumstances.

As you know, the safety and well-being of students, parents, teachers, and staff is our top priority. I would be remiss if I did not recognize the efforts of our maintenance, cleaning, and Edu-Care staff members, who are working to ensure a safe environment for all when we eventually return. If you are interested in reading about the specific sanitization that has occurred throughout our school buildings, please see the attachment to my letter.

We have increased the level of cleaning and disinfecting of all rooms in all of our buildings, equipment, and furniture, with special attention to high-touch surfaces. With the exception of a few of the main offices, the remaining portions of our buildings are not being used; therefore, they will remain completely sanitized until your children return.

I know that there are still many questions with regard to the extended closure. Please know that I am in consultation daily with the Archdiocese and my administrative staff to figure out the next steps we will need to take to ensure the stability of our school and its community. As decisions are made, I will communicate new information with you.

As always, thank you for your unwavering support. Please stay safe, and feel free to reach out if you have any questions. I will continue to pray for each and every one of you in the Slade community during these most trying times.

Sincerely,

Alexa L. Cox
Principal

Pope Francis' Prayer to Mary during the coronavirus pandemic

O Mary,
you always shine on our path
as a sign of salvation and of hope.
We entrust ourselves to you, Health of the Sick,
who at the cross took part in Jesus' pain, keeping your faith firm.
You, Salvation of the Roman People,
know what we need,
and we are sure you will provide
so that, as in Cana of Galilee,
we may return to joy and to feasting
after this time of trial.
Help us, Mother of Divine Love,
to conform to the will of the Father
and to do as we are told by Jesus,
who has taken upon himself our sufferings
and carried our sorrows
to lead us, through the cross,
to the joy of the resurrection. Amen.



Under your protection, we seek refuge, Holy Mother of God. Do not disdain the entreaties of we who are in trial, but deliver us from every danger, O glorious and blessed Virgin.



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.

School Building Cleaning Protocol

March 20, 2020

The following outlines steps taken to sanitize Monsignor Slade Catholic School:

Main School Building

- Electrostatic sprayer - This sprayer, which uses Vital Oxide and is rated through the EPA, kills 99.9% of viruses, including COVID-19. We also use a chlorinating disinfectant tablet that kills viruses as well. This sprayer is very effective on high-touch surfaces as well as tiny crevices.
- All floors have been mopped and cleaned with bleach.
- All tables, chairs, doorknobs, banisters, etc., have been wiped down with a disinfectant.
- All bathrooms have been power-washed and disinfected.
- All trash cans have all been sprayed, cleaned, and disinfected with bleach throughout the building.
- The kitchen has been sprayed, cleaned, and disinfected.
- All carpets have been professionally steam-cleaned.
- After everything was cleaned, the cleaning staff re-cleaned with the electrostatic sprayer.
- To note, the school had been using the electrostatic sprayer weeks before the school closed to keep on top of the developing situation.

Edu-Care and Annex

- All toys and teaching materials were cleaned and sprayed with bleach solutions.
- All cots, chairs, tables, and trash cans were cleaned, power-washed, and hosed with a bleach solution.
- All dress-up clothes, baby dolls, towels, etc., were cleaned in washing machines and dryers.
- All dishes, cooking items, etc., were cleaned in the dishwasher.
- All floors have been mopped with bleach.
- All carpets were steam-cleaned.
- All door knobs, bathrooms, and high-touch areas were cleaned and disinfected.

March 20, 2020

Dear Monsignor Slade Community,

In these uncertain times, your family may be experiencing a lot of emotions. I've included a few resources for you to explore and use as needed at home.

Resource 1: Feelings Chart

How to Use:

- Print out and post the chart in a low-traffic area of your house.
- Review the feelings listed on the chart with your child (have a mirror handy to show them what their face looks like when demonstrating each emotion)
- Check in at different points of the day when noticing escalated emotions - ask your child to point to which facial expression they are making in the mirror

Resource 2: Physical Coping Skills

How to Use:

- Practice each skills with your child
- Ask your child to identify 2 or 3 of the skills that seem to help them the most
- When your child is displaying an escalated emotion, ask them to use the feelings chart and then use a physical coping skill.
- Review what worked and what needs to be adjusted.

To follow are the two charts mentioned above that I thought would be helpful for you and your children.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Watkins
School Counselor

HOW ARE YOU FEELING?



Scared



Calm



Happy



Confident



Thankful



Surprised



Confused



Disappointed



Excited



Nervous



Embarrassed



Stressed



Shy



Frustrated



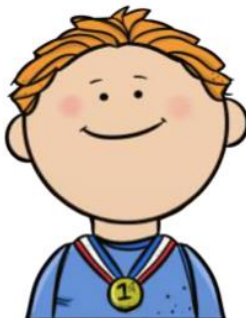
Tired



Bored



Silly



Proud



Sad



Angry

Physical Coping Skills

Instead of hitting, kicking, shoving or throwing, I can...



Do yoga



Push a wall



Bounce on a ball



Press down on my seat



Squeeze a stress ball



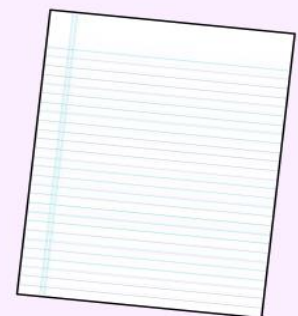
Stretch



Punch a pillow



Squeeze my hands together



Rip paper into a trash can