

Dear St. Margaret of Scotland Parents,

Archbishop Robert Carlson has just announced that all schools in the Archdiocese of St. Louis must close by Wednesday, March 18th. In keeping with our commitment to ensuring the health, safety, and welfare of our community, St. Margaret of Scotland has decided to begin our distance learning plan on Tuesday, March 17th. This will enable Teachers to meet with students, explain the expectations of distance learning, and send home supplies students will need in the coming weeks. Monday, March 16th will be a 12:15 dismissal with no aftercare. If you are not planning to send your child to school on Monday, please make arrangements to pick up their supplies from school before 12:15pm tomorrow. Pending continuing updates and guidance from local and state government and health officials, we have preliminary plans to resume school on Monday, April 6.

Archbishop Carlson made this decision in cooperation with local and state government and health officials. Archbishop Carlson says the health and safety of the people of the archdiocese is a priority and sees this decision as the best path forward to mitigate the spread of the COVID-19 virus in our area.

We understand there are challenges ahead for our school community following this decision. Below are some resources that can help you manage those challenges:

- SMOS will put into place the [St. Margaret of Scotland Distance Learning Plan](#) to ensure the continuity of instruction and to continue student learning. These protocols will ensure the uninterrupted delivery of educational programming to our students. Attached is the
- The transition to distance learning may be challenging for families. Parents will need to think differently about how to support their children; how to create structures and routines that allow their children to be successful; and how to monitor and support their children's learning. Some students will thrive with distance learning, while others may struggle. The eight guidelines provided below are intended to help parents think about what they can do to help their children find success in a distance learning environment. [8 Guidelines for SMOS Parents to Transition to Distance Learning](#)
- Please fill out this form if you will need to borrow an electronic device from SMOS [Request form to borrow an electronic device during distance learning](#)
- For our families that depend on our schools for food, assistance can be found through St. Vincent de Paul of St. Louis, (314) 881-6000 and Catholic Charities of St. Louis (314) 367-5500.
- All extracurricular activities are postponed/canceled including athletics.

We continue to work with the Archdiocese of St. Louis and state and local health officials to ensure the safety of our school population. We are in this together and remind you that your role as parents is the most critical component in the strategy of preventing the spread of this illness.

- If a family member is symptomatic of the COVID-19 coronavirus, please contact your County Department. Officials operating the hotline will give you information on testing and the need to self-quarantine.

- If you or a close relative plans to travel, you are advised to check the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) link for travel guidelines and the latest updates on areas with confirmed cases of COVID-19. If you are traveling to an area where the virus is present or are unsure whether or not it is present at your travel destination, please contact the St. Louis County Department of Health Hotline at (314) 615-2660 for further instruction.
- Be aware of how COVID-19 spreads and what you can do to prevent it. That information is similar to the procedures we use in preventing influenza and can be found [here](#).
- State and health officials have banned gatherings of 50 or more people.

Prayer is of the utmost importance. Please continue to pray the prayer given to us by the USCCB. You can find the prayer posted at archstl.org/coronavirus. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to reach out and ask.

Clare Young

Principal

St. Margaret of Scotland

Fr. Matthew O'Toole

Pastor

St. Margaret of Scotland