

March 21, 2020

To all members of the Bishop Brady community,

And so, this begins my weekly update to keep you informed of the impact of COVID-19 on our community as well as the steps we are taking to do our part in mitigating the spread of the virus and keeping our community healthy.

So, what does this “new normal” look like for each of you? I can almost hear our students celebrating no dress code, no haircuts, and no shaving! For me, it means no more early morning alarm. While my internal clock still has me up early, there is no rush to get to school by 7:15. Instead, I can sip my coffee and glance through my messages before heading into the building for a few hours to continue to troubleshoot things we haven’t yet anticipated. It also means I don’t have to iron something to wear and match my shoes to my outfit every morning! Jeans and sweats are now my everyday attire.

As parents and students know, remote instruction was rolled out this week. While we know there will be some hiccups along the way, I have been extremely impressed with how our teachers have all stepped up, collaborated, trained, and activated this new platform in such a short period of time.

PLEASE LOOK FOR AN EMAIL REGARDING A RELEASE FORM TO ALLOW TEACHERS TO RECORD INSTRUCTION AND DISCUSSION FOR STUDENTS TO BE ABLE TO ACCESS AT ALTERNATE TIMES.

THIS IS NOT A SCHOOL CLOSURE. THIS IS NOT A VACATION. While some students have had some experience with online and remote instruction, we realize that this will be new and challenging for some of you as it is for some of your teachers. If you are having difficulty with the academic expectations, reach out first to your teacher. You can also reach out to members of the Administrative Team who are supporting teachers and instruction in specific academic areas.

Mr. Michael Ling (miling@bishopbrady.edu)	Social Studies
Mr. Keith Bergeron (kbergeron@bishopbrady.edu)	Theology
Mr. James Miller (jmiller@bishopbrady.edu)	Math, Tech, Wellness
Dr. Lori Christerson (lchristerson@bishopbrady.edu)	Science
Mr. Ben Greene (bgreene@bishopbrady.edu)	Arts/Languages
Mrs. Peggy Sica (psica@bishopbrady.edu)	English and ELL

I do have the unpleasant task of announcing that, after travel restrictions announced by the Governor, ALL SCHOOL TRIPS (including Field Trips) have been cancelled through the end of the school year. Trip organizers have already reached out to tour companies and will communicate refund information as soon as it is available. Please give them some time to work out these details with vendors before emailing them.

We also have a team working on alternative plans for completion of service hours as we know that this is an issue for many students. Again, please be patient and we will make an announcement as soon as we are able.

The school building is now open only to employees with reduced hours. For the coming week, the building will be open from 8 am to 2 pm on Monday and Wednesday and from 10 am to 2 pm on Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday. ANY STUDENT WHO STILL NEEDS TO PICK UP ACADEMIC MATERIALS, MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS, OR CLEAN OUT ATHLETIC LOCKERS MUST CONTACT MRS. ELLIOT (aelliott@bishopbrady.edu). Student access is holding up the final cleaning and sanitation of some areas of the building.

At this point, many common areas of the building have been cleaned, sanitized and closed off. The gym, weight room, cafeteria, chapel, conference rooms, and restrooms (with the exception of one) are no longer accessible. Offices, classrooms, and the library have been cleaned and surfaces sanitized, but are still accessible for employee use. Thank you to our maintenance staff for getting this all accomplished. In the upcoming week, all athletic equipment will be cleaned by our athletic director and athletic trainer and additional areas of the building will be cleaned.

My projection is that we will further reduce access to the building in coming weeks with a skeleton staff checking mail, messages, and signing checks. While teachers are working on remote instruction, the staff are brainstorming creative ways to host virtual events and fundraising mechanisms while continuing to respond to inquiries and process acceptances for 2020-2021.

In the coming weeks, the leadership team will be rolling out additional information and activities to keep students and families connected with each other and to provide spiritual and social/emotional support as well as academic instruction. Please continue to follow us on social media platforms and the school website for some fun challenges.

To ALL members of our community, I urge you to follow the recommendations of the CDC and our state government and health officials with regard to social distancing. No large gatherings, limited contact in public, six foot distance when you do have to be in a public space. By all means, get outside and take a walk or go for a run. Face time with extended family and friends. Watch a movie, have family game night. But this is NOT the time for gathering with friends and those outside our immediate families.

Please be assured that our prayers are with you as we all adjust to the “New Normal”. Please feel free to reach out with any questions or concerns.

In peace,

Andrea Isaak Elliot
Principal