



March 16, 2020

Dear Diocese of Jefferson City Catholic Schools:

After deep discernment to be in service to common good and in collaboration with both state and local health care officials, the Diocese of Jefferson City will close all diocesan elementary and high schools, including all grades pre-K through 12 beginning Wednesday, March 18. Pending continuing updates and guidance from local and state government and health officials, we hope to resume school on Monday, April 6. Schools will be closed March 18-April 3. If a local public school makes the decision to extend this suspension, the local Catholic school should follow suit.

Many of our schools are in areas where the public and Catholic schools have already closed out of an abundance of caution. While we operate under a model of subsidiarity of local control, this is an unprecedented situation with widespread implications. It is the duty and calling of the Catholic school to ensure the healthy formation – body, mind, and soul- of all students entrusted to its care. At times of national and international crisis it is our call to serve our Country by assisting authorities to help curb the spread of COVID-19. Below are some resources that may help you meet these challenges:

- To meet the educational needs of each student, each school is working towards providing either e-learning or packet-based instruction at the local level.
- All employees of our schools will continue to be paid without interruption.
- All extracurricular activities at the schools should be postponed/canceled, including athletics.
- Families and staff should be discouraged from travelling or hosting in-person gatherings of more than 50 people during this time.

The Diocese of Jefferson City will continue to support our parishes and schools in this challenging time. You may find suggestions on how to talk to children about the pandemic, prayers, links to Masses on the internet, and other resources at diojeffcity.org/public-health.

The impact of COVID-19 continues to grow daily. Please continue to offer prayers of intercession for all those affected by this virus. Pray also that this pandemic might come to a speedy end. Finally, place your trust in the providence of Almighty God and use this difficult situation as a means to grow closer to the suffering Christ.

Sincerely,

Kenya Fuemmeler
Interim Superintendent
Diocese of Jefferson City