

Dear Parents,

We are praying for your families during this time when we are sheltering in place. I was hoping to communicate with you earlier this week. I have been waiting for an update to our shelter in place order from the Santa Cruz County Health Service Agency. As you may know, the current order expires on May 3rd. We have been told to expect an extension of that order, with some modifications, to be issued later today. My understanding is that the new order will not specify a termination date. Our K-8 campus will remain closed throughout the duration of the order.

We expect the loosening of restrictions for certain businesses. In adjacent counties, people employed by those businesses are eligible for childcare. We plan on reassessing the potential for a limited preschool opening after the new order is issued.

I really appreciate the many families who participated in our recent survey. We are using that information to continue to refine our distance learning practices. While the majority of families indicated that the amount of content we were providing was appropriate, we had more parents indicating a desire for more rather than less.

Many families are finding it challenging to manage their own work obligations with their need to support their children with distance learning. This is more difficult for our younger students who are less independent. We are working to coordinate individual, virtual tutoring sessions, using some of our preschool and aide staff who have been furloughed. If you have interest in this service, please call our office for more information.

We are endeavoring to meet the needs of each of our students and all of our families. While we are working to provide additional material for our upper grade students, we want to make sure all families know they have the flexibility to prioritize their students' participation. I would encourage all families to place a higher value on math and language arts. Your children will not be penalized for work they were unable to complete.

Looking forward, we are making contingency plans for the upcoming school year. We hope that our favorable small class sizes will allow us to resume school with fewer schedule modifications. We will be making appropriate adjustments to provide for expected new social distancing requirements.

Thank you for the support you have been to our faculty and staff. I am pleased with the enthusiasm they display as they respond to this challenge. It is an honor to work with this gifted team.

Yours in Christ,
Steve