



**Department of
Catholic Education**

11625 Old St. Augustine Road
Jacksonville, Florida 32258

(904) 262-0668

schools.dosafl.com

March 18, 2020

Dear Catholic School Parents and Guardians,

We are in a state of constantly changing information with a world that is dealing with a virus that has truly changed the landscape of the world. The health and safety of you, the families of our Catholic schools, remains our top priority. Our diocesan leadership and school leaders continue to closely monitor the development of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19). In the process of monitoring there are many agencies that advise us. We have been listening to the Office of the Governor, Florida Department of Education, Office of Early Learning, Florida Department of Health, Early Learning Coalitions, Center for Disease Control, Florida Catholic Conference, and local government officials.

In consultation with Bishop Estévez, the diocesan leadership is following the guidance that we received last night from the Governor and Florida Department of Education. All schools in the State are to remain closed until April 15. During this time, we will continue distance learning. It is extremely important that the students continue to complete the assignments given by your school as this is how we are taking attendance during this very challenging time.

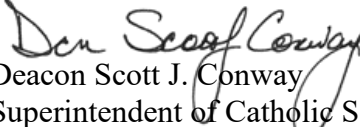
All field trips, athletic events and any large school gatherings (galas, auction, dances, etc.) are canceled or postponed until the students return to regular on-site classes. ***Please note that Easter vacation has been altered.*** Your school will provide an updated calendar reflecting this change soon. If you have vacations scheduled and affected by these changes, please consult your school administration.

The Florida Office for Early Learning and local coalitions have asked that early learning centers throughout the State of Florida remain open. ***Most of our stand-alone early learning centers have remained open.*** We are taking extra precautions to keep these sites sanitized and operational to serve our families, but most importantly these sites allow first responders and medical professionals the ability to continue to serve us.

Regarding travel, the guidance from the CDC changes according to what is happening nationally and globally. Please understand that any travel might involve self-quarantine. We ask that you communicate with your schools (when they reopen) and early learning centers of any travel to help keep everyone safe.

We continue to ask you to please have patience. This is an unprecedented situation that has many people responding out of fear and panic. Please continue to monitor dosaeducation.org and consult with your schools for further guidance. We understand the difficulty this action continues to have on our families. However, our leaders and medical professionals are giving us important guidance to help everyone. Let us continue to remain calm and pray that this situation will begin to level off and give us back a sense of normalcy for all.

Sincerely yours in Christ,


Deacon Scott J. Conway
Superintendent of Catholic Schools