

Dear Parents,

I appreciate your understanding and patience during this time. This is an unprecedented situation that is changing rapidly. I recognize that this email may not answer all of your questions at this time, but more information will be shared as it becomes available to me.

Why are we closing school?

Governor Mike DeWine issued this aggressive action to slow the spread of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) in the state. The governor urged these actions because this is a crucial moment in time, when Ohio can slow the spread of this disease and do everything we can to protect public health, especially for our most vulnerable populations. While these actions will be disruptive and inconvenient to many, we are compelled as a faith-based community to come together for the common good of our community, state, country, and world.

While there are no confirmed cases of COVID-19 at our school, there are at least five confirmed cases in northern Ohio, and increasing reports of cases in the tri-state area. Both the state of Ohio and the city of Cincinnati are under a state of emergency in response to the pandemic.

Social distancing is the best way to prevent new cases by preventing sick people from coming in close contact with healthy ones. This strategy requires limiting large group gatherings, canceling events, working or communicating remotely, and keeping at least a 6-foot distance between people.

What is the expectation of my child to complete school work? How will this be communicated?

It is important to note that St. Michael Parish School will continue to provide educational services during this time. Our faculty and staff are working diligently and swiftly to transition their classroom lessons to a format that can be delivered at home. Teachers will be available to parents or students via email. They can answer questions or help with any academic problems which may arise. It is not our intent to overwhelm students and parents, but rather provide some academic programming during this time away from the physical school building. Students should not view this time as a complete vacation from school and learning. This work will be graded. If students in grades 5-8 need technology, please fill out this technology link and print and return the attached form.

[Technology Form](#)

What should students do to prepare for the school closure?

The faculty and I have set up three windows of time for parents to come and pick up assignments, books, and other things your child may need to work from home. The times are Saturday 9:00–11:00 a.m.; Sunday 10:45 a.m.–12:45 p.m.; and Monday 9:00–11:00 a.m. Parents are expected to come one of these days. If you are unable to make one of these times, please make arrangements with a neighbor or a friend.

What should our time away from school look like?

With the decision to close schools, the purpose is to limit social interactions so as to slow or prevent the spread of the coronavirus. Parents are urged to use caution during this time while the students are at home and avoid placing them in large social situations where the risk of infection may be present. This will help make our school closure more effective.

What about medications that I need for my child in the nurse's office?

If you would like to pick up any medication when you pick up your child's work, please email Mrs. Holekamp at bholekamp@stmichaelsharonville.org or Mrs. Florea at gflorea@stmichaelsharonville.org. All medication left here will be locked up.

How is cleaning and disinfecting being carried out at St. Michael School?

Our custodial team has been using increased disinfectant measures daily with extra attention on touch points – door handles, door push plates, water fountains, and railings. They will also provide additional disinfectant cleaning to include surfaces like desks, floors, and so on. This will take place while we are out of the building.

Please join us in prayer for our country and our world as we face these challenging times. I am confident that our community will face this challenge with hopeful optimism and work together to do what's best for our children and our community.

"All will be well, and all will be well, all manner of things shall be well!" Julian of Norwich, 14th Century

In Christ's Peace,
Carolyn Murphy, M.Ed.
Principal
St. Michael Parish School