



Dear Presentation Families,

We are strong. We are adaptable. We are blessed. We can do anything walking TOGETHER with God!

After much discernment over the best way to be proactive and keep our community as safe as possible, while trying to keep our in-person learning experience a reality, Presentation School has decided we will move to **distance learning starting Monday, November 30-December 18**. The last day of in-person learning will be Wednesday, November 18th for those classes still in session.

Teachers will have two days to prepare this Thursday & Friday (Nov. 19 & 20). There will be no school on November 23 & 24 for students. It's the end of the first trimester. Teachers will work on report cards and prepare materials for a pickup on November 24th.

Christmas Break begins officially on December 23rd. December 21 & 22 students will not have school, but teachers will work on distance learning lesson plans and prepare materials for a pickup on Dec 22nd (if needed) so that we are all ready for the Holiday Quarantine to take place *after* Christmas Break.

Our Holiday Quarantine - Distance Learning will begin on Monday, January 4 through January 18th. In-person learning will resume on Tuesday, January 19th for all those who are healthy. Hopefully, this model will give us the best chance to be in school for a longer period of time.

We have been blessed to have twelve wonderful weeks of in-person learning this Fall with only 5 confirmed cases of the COVID-19 virus. The building has been full of incredible energy, smiles, laughter, and lots of learning. I think we can all agree, we all love being in school. To that end, the reality is that the landscape is changing quickly since our first two cases on November 8th. Even in the past several days, we have had several families with a member who has tested positive. As of today, we have many more students in quarantine with and without symptoms still awaiting test results. Our ability to monitor, teach, and deliver our outstanding academic experience in the building is starting to become compromised and more challenging every day. The cases in our building are traceable to family members and thus exposure happened outside of school. Although **these exposures are no one's fault**, they are the result of a very high rate of community spread all around our area to which we simply cannot remain immune. We remain extremely proud of all the work everyone has done throughout this

pandemic to keep OUR SCHOOL the best and safest place to be every day. Our faith community is on overtime shining so bright! Thank you for doing your part!

Please know that we are also aware of the added difficulties that come with distancing learning at home during the pandemic with isolation. The loss of daily structure and routine can be incredibly challenging for our students and families, and in some cases even more than the effects of getting COVID-19 itself. For this reason, we want to be in school in-person as much as possible. It is just better in-person and we all love being together! This concern, however, must also be balanced against our ability to ensure the safety of the students, their family members, greater community, and our staff. Therefore, with everyone's safety in mind, the decision is clear that we must take a break from in-person learning starting this week and after the Thanksgiving holiday.

We ask that our community continues to be diligent in practicing physical distancing and mask wearing during this time to ensure that when we do return, we can do so with confidence that our students and staff are returning to the safest environment possible.

Please also know that our staff is committed to our students and community. Our excellence does not stop at the door! The teachers and staff will be ready to go November 30th. Attached to this letter is a sheet with additional important information.

Let us all continue to hold our prayers up for the safety and health of all of our families.

Presentation is closely monitoring news, updates from CDC, and trends regarding the spread of COVID-19 in our area. Our decisions are being guided by health experts, including the CDC, Minnesota Health Department, The Minneapolis/St. Paul Archdiocese, and local health authorities. We will continue to keep you tightly posted on information if/when it changes.

We are living in difficult times, but we are blessed and fortunate to be walking this journey TOGETHER!

Stay Well...Stay Safe...Stay Active...Stay Blessed...Stay in Prayer...And TOGETHER LET'S KEEP GOD'S LIGHT SHINING BRIGHT!

Blessings to you and your family,

Sue Lovegreen, Principal

Important Information to Know

Date:

November 17 & 18: In-person for classes that are still in school (All other classes continue where you are currently at.)

November 19 & 20: No school for students - teachers preparing for Distance Learning

November 23 & 24: No school for students - teachers preparing for Distance Learning and report cards (End of 1st trimester)

November 24: Distance Learning Pick Up Day

November 30-December 18: Full Distance Learning K-8

December 21 & 22: Teacher prep days for Holiday Quarantine after Christmas break & possible pick up day

January 4-18: Holiday Quarantine - Full Distance Learning K-8

January 19: All grades back in-person (**Praise Be to God!**)

Process for picking up or dropping off items at school:

- Presentation will have the same pick-up and drop-off methods as last year.
- Cars should enter the parish parking lot between the church and the rectory on the north end of the campus on Kennard St.
- Cars will proceed through the parking lot down the hill toward the preschool door.
- A staff member will stand outside using a radio to baggers inside.
- Staff will put supplies in cars as you drive up.
- **No one should park and come up to staff for pick up.**
- Supplies will be packed by family last names and can be picked up between 2-4:30pm.

We recognize that this change may put a burden on families. Therefore, we would like to offer a few suggestions and services that have been utilized by others in our community or other schools that have had to make this move to distance learning:

- **Cohorts** - Presentation's community has always been our strong point. We have families who are willing to team up to help support each other throughout distance learning. Some are working out a plan with their employer alternating schedules for their own flexibility to help their own children as well as assist other families. These cohorts can be used to help watch kids, assist in distance learning and many other ways to help each other. Our families are here to help team up with making our community stronger together. Please contact the front office if you are interested in joining a Presentation Cohort group.
- Is there a family member or relative that could help with supervising students during distance learning?

Free and Reduced Lunch

District 622 will provide meals (through at least December or as long as the funding is available) for all children who need them, no matter their resources and no matter what school they attend. Free lunches for students in the community can be picked up at a number of sites with

varying times. Information found here: <https://www.isd622.org/Page/14725>. If students need lunches but are unable to get to a pick up site, they can call nutrition services at 651-748-7530 to request meal delivery or contact our school and we can make pick-up and drop off arrangements. Additional food resources can be found at <https://www.isd622.org/Page/15151>. Several Presentation families are also willing to drop off food to create a Presentation Pantry. We will have a table outside the gym doors for non-perishable food to be dropped off or picked up by any Presentation family that needs it. Please only take what you need so others may receive the needed support. Be sure to contact Sue Lovegreen or Jenna Rose Bradshaw if your family needs nutritional support.

Technology

Please be sure to contact us if you have any technology issues or needs.

- Grades 4-8 will be able to take home their school issued Chromebooks.
- Students in K-3 can check out an iPad if needed. We have limited supplies of iPads.
- Please reinforce with your child(ren) that these are educational devices for them to use with their classwork. They are not a toy. Additional apps and games should not be downloaded on any school issued device.