

March 13, 2020

Dear MCES Families,

Please take time to read this full letter so you have all the details for the COVID-19 School Closure that was issued by the State of Michigan Governor Gretchen Whitmer and the Archdiocese of Detroit Office of Catholic Schools.

As I am sure you are aware, Coronavirus, or COVID-19, has currently been detected in Michigan and local public school districts have closed at the direction of the State of Michigan; as a school in the Archdiocese of Detroit, we are under their jurisdiction and have also been closed. For the health and safety of our students, we will close Monroe Catholic Elementary Schools starting March 13, through April 5. Currently, the plan is to reopen on April 6th. This closure includes both MCES Childcare/Daycare, Preschool, and School-aged programs, as well as latchkey. We know this disruption poses a major change to your schedule, but our priority must be the wellness of our students, as well as adherence to the State of Michigan health and safety guidelines.

To our Childcare Families, we know this closure creates a challenge for your family dynamics and we are truly sorry. We want our youngest students to remain as safe as possible. Mrs. Welton works closing with the State of Michigan Department of Licensing and Regulatory Affairs and follows their recommendations and requirements closely. The decision to close the childcare center was also made by the Archdiocese of Detroit. We will reopen the MCES Childcare Program as soon as we are advised it is safe to do so. Please watch for further communications and updates. The plan is to reopen the childcare center on April 6 along with our school programs.

As outlined by the Archdiocese of Detroit Superintendent of Catholic Schools and sent in the earlier communication:

- Schools will move their customary Easter Break to the week of **March 16 - 20**. Students will not need to report physically or virtually to school at this time.
- Distance/E-Learning will take place starting **March 23**.
- Provided that there is no extension or modification of Governor Whitmer's order, students will return to schools on **April 6 - 8** followed by two days off for Holy Thursday and Good Friday (April 9 and 10).
- Students and instructional staff will return on **April 13** for their first full week of school.
- For additional updates from the Archdiocese of Detroit, please visit:
aod.org/emergencyresponse

Our Mission: Monroe Catholic Elementary Schools is a Christ-centered, Catholic learning community committed to the academic excellence and spiritual development of every student.

For all of our Preschool and School-Aged Families:

While students are home during this period, our teaching staff will continue instruction in a distance learning format. This program is outlined below.

- MCES Families will receive a daily email from myself. Included in this email will be a link to a Google Form to “take attendance” daily. Please fill this out for each of your children in preschool and older.
 - Also included in this email will be other pertinent information for the day.
- We have created a landing page for all the online resources. Please bookmark the following page: <https://www.mcesmonroe.com/online-learning.html>
- Mrs. Welton will be working on adjusting latchkey statements for families who utilize the program. If you have already made your March payment, a credit will be on your April statement. If you have not made your payment yet, new statements will be sent early next week via email.

For St. Michael Campus students in Preschool, Young 5s, Kindergarten & 1st Grade:

- You will receive a packet of worksheets and activities. **Please plan to pick up this packet and necessary materials anytime between 7:00 am and 3:30 pm on Tuesday, March 17.** Access to classrooms will not be available, as the classrooms have been cleaned.
- Read for 15-20 minutes daily.
- Please check your child’s teacher’s classroom website for activities, available here: <https://www.mcesmonroe.com/faculty--staff.html>
- Students in Young 5s and up have access to Ascend Math and many teachers are asking students to participate in this program. Here is the link: <https://www.myascendmath.com/Ascend/login.htm>

For St. John Campus students in 2nd, 3rd & 4th Grade:

- 2nd & 3rd Grade: You will receive a packet of worksheets and activities. **Please plan to pick up this packet and necessary materials anytime between 7:00 am and 3:30 pm on Tuesday, March 17.** Access to classrooms will not be available, as the classrooms have been cleaned.
- 4th Grade, please plan to pick up your materials at the same time; your teachers will provide assignments and activities on their classroom websites.
- Read daily for at least 20 minutes.

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- Teachers will post videos and activities daily on their classroom websites, found here: <https://www.mcesmonroe.com/faculty--staff.html>
- Students should log into Ascend Math daily to practice their math facts and participate in assigned activities: <https://www.myascendmath.com/Ascend/login.htm>

For St. Mary Campus students in 5th, 6th, 7th & 8th Grade:

- **Students will have access to their lockers between 8:00 am and 3:30 pm on Monday, March 16 and Tuesday, March 17.** Classroom access will be restricted.
- Each teacher has set up a Google Classroom and all students have a Gmail account. This Gmail account has been linked to your child's Google Classroom. Google classroom allows your children to interact with their teacher from home. Teachers will share assignments with the students using this platform.
- Students should also check their teachers' classroom websites for videos, links and other information to assist them in their learning.
 - All teachers' website and email contact information can be found here: <https://www.mcesmonroe.com/faculty--staff.html>
- Reading is vital: please read for 20-30 minutes daily.

Technology (2nd grade and up only)

We know some families may need additional technology to allow their children to participate in these online programs. If you need to borrow a Chromebook, we have some available. Please fill out the following survey and we can check one out for you on Tuesday, March 17th during the packet/materials collection. <https://forms.gle/ZCYF31zEeZNNnduv8>

Teachers will do all they can to ensure they provide you with activities and assignments that are meaningful. If you have any questions about the activities, please email your child's teacher. As mentioned above, we have created a landing page for all the online resources. Please bookmark the following page: <https://www.mcesmonroe.com/online-learning.html>

The MCES Auction

As with many other large gatherings, the MCES Auction will not be held on Saturday, March 21st. I am currently working on an alternative date later in the year and thank you for your patience with this matter. I want to take a moment to thank Michelle Leicht and the incredible Auction Committee for the energy they have put into the event and look forward to seeing everyone at the rescheduled date!

Other Events

- All co- and extracurricular events are cancelled until further notice.

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MONROE CATHOLIC
ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS

ST. MICHAEL
Early Elementary School
510 W. Front Street
Monroe, MI 48161

ST. JOHN
Elementary School
521 S. Monroe Street
Monroe, MI 48161

ST. MARY
Middle School
151 N. Monroe Street
Monroe, MI 48162

- Kindergarten Screening will be rescheduled when we return to class.

Thank you for your patience and understanding during this time. We will be in constant communication with families throughout this window of time, and as the situation progresses, we will keep you informed on our plans moving forward.\

Thank you for your partnership,

Kyle Kubik
Executive Principal
Monroe Catholic Elementary Schools
St. Michael & St. John Campuses

Make. Care. Embrace. Seek.

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www.mcesmonroe.com
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