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ARCHDIOCESE OF ST. LOUIS

OFFICE OF THE ARCHBISHOP

April 9, 2020

Dear Archdiocesan School Administrators,

In light of continued developments in the COVID-19 situation throughout the Archdiocese of St. Louis and new guidance from government and health officials, **the Archdiocese of St. Louis elementary and high schools—including all grades pre-K through 12—will continue distance learning for the remainder of the school year.** All in-person classes will remain suspended throughout that time, and extra-curricular activities and athletics should continue to be postponed/canceled, including graduation ceremonies.

As with all decisions related to the COVID-19 crisis, this determination has been made following much consultation with archdiocesan leadership, and local and state officials, as well as deep discernment in prayer. It has become clear that this is the best course of action to keep our students, staff and all those in our community safe, healthy and well.

As we continue to celebrate Holy Week under unprecedented circumstances, I understand that this announcement brings with it additional challenges on top of an already challenging time for all of you, and for our school communities. I, along with all Archdiocese of St. Louis personnel, will continue to support you, have you in our prayers, and be here to help answer any questions or concerns you have.

Please note the following details regarding distance-learning timelines at the elementary and high-school levels:

- Elementary-school distance learning will culminate on Friday, May 8. The last day of school for all Catholic elementary schools will be Wednesday, May 13.
- High-school distance learning will conclude during the week of May 18-22. Specific end-dates will vary by school.
- The Office of Catholic Education and Formation will be sending additional guidance next week and will meet virtually with you to assist with planning.

Thank you all for your dedication as you continue to stay engaged with and educate our students during this trying time. Please continue to support one another, and to unite with all of our faithful in prayer to the Blessed Mother to intercede in healing us—body and spirit—and providing strength for those on the front lines fighting this virus and serving the needs of our community.

The latest public statements and information from the archdiocese regarding COVID-19 can be found at archstl.org/coronavirus, and video messages of hope from many priests of our archdiocese can be found at archstl.org/be-not-afraid.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Most Reverend Robert J. Carlson
Archbishop of St. Louis