



St. Mary Catholic Schools

812 N. State Ave
Dell Rapids, SD 57022
(605) 428-5591
(605) 428-5377 (Fax)



Parents-

After discussion with the St. Mary EAC, local superintendents, and the Department of Health, St. Mary has decided to enter into an “essential personnel only” plan for St. Mary Educational Facilities. This means that for the immediate future, only St. Mary Staff and students will be allowed access to St. Mary facilities before, during, and after school. All non-school activities, facility use, gym use, and outside access will be restricted entirely. The safety of St. Mary students is paramount at St. Mary Catholic Schools, and our hope is that these measures will both keep our students safe while protecting the academic integrity of our education.

This plan will go into effect immediately and will remain in place until further notice. All out-of-school activities will be postponed, and all in-school activities will be restricted to staff and students only. The following school events are postponed to a date TBD:

- Sacred Hoops Carnival Fundraiser
- Talent Show
- Winter Activities Awards Banquet

Similarly, the following events are changed in the following manner:

- Parent-Teacher Conferences: These will proceed during the scheduled time but will be done via telephone, Skype, or some other form of outward communication. We are working on this plan and will have more for you next week.
- Chemistry Show: This will proceed as scheduled but will be limited to staff and students only. Our plan is to stream this on our YouTube Live channel to allow parents to watch.

The big question that we are sure is going to be asked about is the Carnival. As of now the Carnival is going to proceed as scheduled. A lot has changed over the past few days and a lot more can change over the next two weeks. The thing we want to assure people is that even if the Carnival date needs to be moved, the Carnival **WILL** happen. As with everything else, you will be alerted of any changes.

We know parents are used to volunteering and having access to St. Mary in various ways. The following changes to this access will be in effect until further notice, included but not limited to:

- No Mystery Readers, Junior Achievement, or parent volunteers in classrooms.
- No parent lunches with children.
- No parents will be allowed into the Parish Hall for after school pickup. All transitions will happen outside of the building.
- Pre-School and Junior Cardinal will be given directives from Mrs. Maxwell on how to handle pickup/drop-off of those children.
- All irregular access (e.g. dropping off forgotten items) should happen through the HS Office as the ES Office does not have a full-time Administrative Assistant every day.
- School Masses will continue as scheduled and parents are welcome to attend as usual. Parents will not be able to sit with the students to respect the social distance guidelines of the CDC and Department of Health.

Our Mission

St. Mary Catholic School strives for a united community of academic excellence and stewardship by embracing the Gospel and carrying the light of Christ.



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We know that this is a lot of information to consume. The thing we want to assure you is that our plan inside the building is business as usual, which is providing your children the highest-quality Catholic education possible. Classes will run as scheduled, and co-/extra-curricular practices will happen as scheduled.

As a school, we are ramping up our efforts to prevent the spread of Coronavirus, the flu, colds, and all diseases. Our custodial staff is ordering additional supplies to equip each classroom with disinfectants in addition to their regular cleaning. Students and staff are going to be encouraged to wash their hands upon entering the building and at regular intervals throughout the day, especially before lunch. All staff and students are encouraged to stay home when feeling ill. If a student comes to the office complaining of any Coronavirus or flu-related symptoms, they will be sent home.

This is an ever-changing situation, so as changes happen we will do our best to communicate them with you. In the meantime we would reiterate the messages you have been seeing from us and others, which is to practice good hygiene and maintain social distances. If you have concerns about your child's health, please contact your family physician. Avera has also established a 24/7 hotline that can be reached at 1-877-AT-AVERA.

Thank You and God Bless,

Fr. John Lantsberger
Superintendent

Deb Kallhoff
K-6 Principal

Casey Michel
7-12 Principal

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