



St. Ethelreda School
"Educating Tomorrow's Leaders Today"

8734 South Paulina
Chicago, IL 60620
Ph: 773-238-1757
Fax: 773-238-6059

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Dear St. Ethelreda Families,

I hope you and your families are remaining healthy during this time of uncertainty. Since the closure of our school building on March 16, I have been amazed at the hard work of our students in completing e-Learning and Distance Learning lessons. I sincerely appreciate your efforts in supporting your child during this time. I know it is not easy to assist with your child's learning, particularly as many of our parents and guardians continue to fulfill work-related obligations. One of the strengths of our school is the sense of partnership that exists between our educators and families. I am deeply appreciative of our partnership, and for your efforts to support the learning of your child.

Similarly, I am extremely thankful for the hard work of our teachers in implementing e-Learning and Distance Learning. At our school, we believe passionately that our students deserve the very best education, and our teachers are striving to provide them with engaging and creative lessons.

As you know, Gov. Pritzker has extended the statewide school closure through the remainder of the academic year. With this announcement, we have received some questions about why it is important parents should continue to pay tuition for the coming weeks. The Archdiocese of Chicago has encouraged the continued collection of tuition for the rest of the year, as tuition is the main source of revenue for our school. While we receive additional support from fundraisers and our parish, we depend heavily upon tuition. Although our building has closed, the costs of providing an education to your family are essentially the same, as our main expense relates to paying our teachers and other employees.

We have made the commitment to continuing to pay our school employees during our building closure. By continuing to pay tuition, families ensure that we need not consider such actions as laying off our teachers or staff members, and that we can ensure that our teachers return for the coming school year.

I know that nothing can replace the direct interaction between teachers and students that it is at the heart of a quality education. Nevertheless, our teachers are working very hard to provide strong e-Learning and Distance Learning. Ongoing tuition payments ensure that this education can continue.

Many of our families may be experiencing financial hardships as a result of the COVID-19 (coronavirus) outbreak. If you are having difficulty paying tuition, I would encourage you to speak to me, or our business manager. We do not want these difficult times to impact the education of your child.

Also, I have information for applying for Pandemic EBT (P-EBT) Snap benefits posted on the website under Parents. Whatever you need, don't hesitate to call and ask. I might not have it, but I will try my best to find the resources or help you in any way possible.

I am incredibly grateful for your ongoing support of our school. May God continue to bless your family and keep you safe and healthy.

Praying for God's blessings on all of us,

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a stylized, cursive name that is difficult to decipher. The signature starts with a large, looped initial and extends with a long, sweeping horizontal line.