

Dear Good Shepherd Parents,

As you know, the novel coronavirus COVID-19 pandemic continues to impact communities. Today, five more Minnesota residents tested positive for the virus, bringing the total known cases in the state to 14. Two of the 14 are Hennepin County residents who tested positive after visiting clinics in St. Louis Park and Brooklyn Center. Additionally, we learned this afternoon that Benilde-St. Margaret's is closing school and moving to an extended online school-learning environment.

This evening we convened the School Advisory Board for discussion regarding steps to take to ensure the health, safety, and well being of our students, families, and faculty/staff. At the meeting, the decision was unanimously made to move Good Shepherd School to a remote/online learning environment. This was undoubtedly a difficult decision but we believe a prudent one.

Starting on Monday, March 16, there will be no school on campus. The schedule for the next three weeks is as follows:

- Monday to Friday, March 16 to 20: No School. Faculty and staff will report to school as usual to begin developing and planning lessons for online learning.
- Spring Break, March 23 to 27: No School, no remote/online learning or assignments
- Week of March 30 to April 3: Remote/online learning school will be in effect
- Week of April 6: Anticipated reopening of school on campus, although we will continue to evaluate the situation and make decisions accordingly.

The details regarding how students/families will interact with teachers for remote/online learning will be communicated via email by end of day Wednesday, March 18.

We understand this decision presents an additional difficulty in an already difficult time, but it is made in the interest of keeping our community safe. Please don't hesitate to contact the school office or any of the School Advisory Board members below if you have any questions or concerns. The school office will be open 8am-3pm all week.

Thank you for your flexibility, cooperation, support, and prayers as we navigate this evolving situation.

Mr. McGinty & Fr. Marquard

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