



April 3, 2020

Good Parents of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton:

Yesterday in an executive order, Governor Whitmer suspended in-person school for the remainder of the 2019-20 academic year. While this may close our physical buildings, it does not impact the continuation of instruction that has been on-going since the original closure last month. Our school will continue to provide online and distance learning opportunities to reach the essential learning objectives of our curriculum and to ensure students are prepared for success at the next grade level. Further specifics can be found in my letter from March 25, accessible at [https://gtacs.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/03\\_25\\_20-SEAS-Parent-Student-Letter.pdf](https://gtacs.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/03_25_20-SEAS-Parent-Student-Letter.pdf)

As we navigate these uncharted waters, know of our school's continued commitment to the education and formation of your child. We will continue to focus on their academic and spiritual growth, focusing on essential standards to make them successful at the next level. We understand that this announcement continues to create complexities and challenges to everyday life. As partners in your child's education, we are here to guide and support you in all ways. Through continuing online education and continual communication between teachers, staff, students, and families, students will be prepared for fall and we will meet students where they are, adjusting instruction to each child as needed.

During Pope Francis' "*Urbi et Orbi*" last week, I was struck by the simplicity and the beauty of Jesus present on the altar in the Blessed Sacrament. With St. Peter's Square empty, dark, and rainy, it would have been natural to feel alone and somewhat downtrodden. Even witnessing the event via my computer screen, I could not help but feel connected, unified, and inspired by our faith. Pope Francis meditated on the calming of the storm from the Gospel of Mark, challenging us to put ourselves in the boat with Jesus. While the disciples were shaken and alarmed, Jesus was calm, even as the bow of the boat began to sink. In these days, as much around us seems to sink, we must turn to Jesus and place our faith in Him. We must not despair as the disciples in the boat began to, but rather, realize the saving presence of Christ, even amidst life's difficulties and challenges.

May God continue to bless your families, our school and faith community, our nation, and our world. Our Lady of Guadalupe...pray for us!

God Bless,

Carl Scholten  
Principal, St. Elizabeth Ann Seton

