

May 1, 2020

Good St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Families,

Continued Easter blessings to all! As we enter into our final month of the school year, I pray that you and your family have found structure and rhythm as we adjust to this ever-changing world. Throughout the past six weeks, I have grown ever so appreciative of and have continually longed for the structure and community that our Catholic faith and GTACS schools provide.

In the midst of all the uncertainty and change, I have been greatly inspired by the acts of faith and charity from within our school community. One of our 6th Grade Catechism Bee finalists selflessly chose to donate her scholarship prize back, wanting to help a family who may be in financial need. Many teachers have made deliveries to homes to drop off needed technology or academic resources. And I know this is just the tip of the iceberg in terms of the sacrifice, commitment, and compassion that our community has witnessed and exhibited, all for His greater glory!

As we approach the end of the year, I know there are many questions. I am humble enough to admit that I do not have all the answers, and many responses will be based on further direction from the State.

- **Grading:** Teachers will continue to grade student work in an effort to provide feedback and ensure students are making progress. I have been closely monitoring grades throughout and they appear in-line with prior marking periods. However, I do recognize that the online format and the pandemic itself has added stress and anxiety and is impacting each student differently. Please reach out to me or your child's teachers if you notice any unusual grade patterns or if there are other circumstances we need to understand. It is our mission to be flexible and accommodating, while ensuring students are prepared for the next grade level.
- **Course Selection for 2020-21:** Look for an email in mid-May with instructions regarding course selection. Students will be selecting their elective courses for next year online.
- **End of the year:** Following the conclusion of our school year on Friday, May 29, there will be an opportunity for students to access the building for locker cleanout, book turn-in, and yearbook distribution. This date(s) will be communicated in the coming weeks and will be in line with any State order.
- **8th Grade:** It is my hope that we are able to celebrate our 8th Grade class and the conclusion of their middle school years. Once again, it will be dependent and in-line with any State mandates.
 - For those 8th Grade students interested in running for class office at Saint Francis, those elections will take place this coming fall.

As we begin May, the month of our Blessed Mother, let us find strength and hope in Mary's "yes" to the Archangel Gabriel. In times of great uncertainty, may our Blessed Mother, the Undoer of Knots, help to straighten our path and comfort us in despair. Know of my continued prayers for all of our students and families.

Easter blessings and joy-

Carl Scholten
Principal