

November 16, 2020

Dear GTACS faculty, staff, and families,

On Sunday evening, November 15, the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services issued a [Gatherings and Face Mask Order \(PDF\)](#) that impacts our schools. It calls for all high schools to move to online learning beginning November 18 and continuing through December 8. It also increases the limits on indoor and outdoor gatherings, which impacts extracurriculars, and has resulted in an immediate (effective today) cessation of sports.

While we are still working through all the ramifications of this sudden announcement, here is what we know right now:

- Our preschool, elementary and middle school classes will **continue in-person**. Per the State website: "Michigan has seen fewer outbreaks of COVID-19 associated with elementary and middle schools and younger children are most in need of in-person instruction."
- Beginning Wednesday morning, as mandated by the Order, **St. Francis High School classes will take place online**. High school students will attend school in-person tomorrow (November 17). and bring locker items home. Students who cannot attend on Tuesday may pick up materials on Wednesday during school hours or make alternate arrangements. We plan to resume in-person instruction at our high school on December 9. Details regarding online learning will come directly from the high school.
- **School-sponsored sports for all GTACS grade levels are immediately suspended**. There will be no practices or competitions for GTACS athletes until the order expires. Per the MHSAA: "We will assess everything over the next three weeks relative to fall and winter sports and come up with a plan that keeps us connected to our goal, for months, of having three seasons that are played to their conclusions."
- **SEAS shuttle buses will no longer be available** (effective Tuesday, November 17) and there will be **no neighborhood busing** until TCAPS resumes in-person learning for its middle and high schools.
- Before and after School IC Spanish and music classes MAY continue to be offered; this is one of the details we are still tracking.
- Extracurriculars for all grade levels will be cancelled beginning Wednesday, November 18. If you are not sure about a particular activity, please contact the activity coordinator or advisor.
- **St. Joseph Club After School Care will continue** to be offered while school is in session at Immaculate Conception.
- The Bye Bye Birdie high school musical workshop for prospective participants in this year's musical has been moved up to Tuesday, November 17 from 5:30-7:00 pm in the Kohler Auditorium. All students will wear masks and be socially distanced in the auditorium seats.
- If you participate in a non-school-sponsored activity that takes place at one of our facilities, please check with the organizers to determine whether it is affected by this recent order.
- Students may continue to receive a free school lunch on those days when COVID prevents students from dining at school. For high schoolers, the recent order increases the number of

days on which this is available. Please contact Karen Spencer at kspencer@gtacs.org to let her know of your desire to obtain a free lunch for your student(s).

- All GTACS schools will be closed the week of November 23-27 as previously announced.

TCAPS has announced that they will transition their elementary schools to online learning beginning on Wednesday. Their middle school and high school students were already attending online. We mention this so it does not create confusion. We intend to keep our K-8 students at school for in-person learning as much as possible.

See the [Michigan.gov website](https://www.michigan.gov) for further details on the order.