



DIOCESE OF MANCHESTER

153 Ash Street, Manchester, NH 03105
Superintendent of Schools



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April 16, 2020

Dear Catholic School Families and Employees:

Earlier today, Governor Sununu announced that remote learning would continue for all schools in New Hampshire for the remainder of this academic year. Please find today's letter from Governor Sununu to all New Hampshire school leaders [HERE](#). I would like to thank the Governor for his leadership throughout this pandemic and ask that you continue to pray for him and all our civic leaders who need to make difficult decisions during these unprecedented times. May the Blessed Mother intercede for them in their decisions always, protect them from harm under her mantle, and present their prayers to her Son, Jesus Christ.

The Governor's decision to extend remote learning through June creates a new set of challenges, especially for our faculty who are working hard to provide quality remote instruction for the benefit of every student learning at home. However, if our faculty's ability to transform their mode of instruction in only a few short weeks is an indication of what the next eight weeks might bring, I am confident they are up to the task. Therefore, with a deep sense of resolve and a great amount of perseverance, our Catholic school leaders and our faculty move forward with their long term planning and the continued delivery of remote instruction for the remaining eight weeks of school.

This announcement brings disappointment to many of us, especially our seniors and their families. I too am heartbroken that our seniors will not be able to enjoy their planned graduation ceremonies. Our seniors have made bonds and formed life-long friendships with classmates, some of whom have been together for four, six, or even twelve years. These relationships are a primary reason why graduation is one of the most significant and memorable milestones in our seniors' lives. Although disappointed, I am extremely encouraged and thankful to learn that our high schools are already brainstorming and planning alternative and meaningful end-of-the-year graduation ceremonies for our seniors and their families. I look forward to sharing in those celebrations and ask all of you to join me in praying for and supporting our Class of 2020!

Some parents have been asking about April vacation and if we will end the school year early. It is important that our schools take a break this month after five weeks of remote instruction. Not only will teachers, students, and parents be able to take a short break, but also this will allow teachers and school leaders time to regroup, assess how they are doing, and plan the remainder of the year. Regarding the last day of school, Diocesan and Parish schools will continue remote instruction through their last scheduled day in June. Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to announce that we have canceled NWEA spring testing for students in Kindergarten through eighth grade.

Please know I am praying for all of you every day.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

David A. Thibault
Superintendent