



St. Joseph High School
80 Willoughby Street
Brooklyn, New York 11201
phone/718-624-3618
fax/718-624-2792
admin@sjhsbridge.org

April 7th, 2020

Dear Parents and Guardians,

First, let me say **Thank you** for your patience, trust and understanding as we transitioned from in school instruction to assignments in Google Classroom to live, remote lessons. The Administration and Faculty continue to meet virtually to evaluate and adjust instruction, and most importantly to understand and share how we as educators can respond to the needs of the students and our school community.

Unfortunately during these past few weeks we have received sad news from families and friends who have passed away or are battling the coronavirus. We ask that the St. Joseph High School community hold in your prayers and in your hearts our sister school, The Mary Louis Academy, as they mourn the passing of their Assistant Principal, Mr. Lewinger, and all of our friends and families.

As we mourn the loss of those who passed away due to the coronavirus, we are reminded of the importance of keeping the health and safety of our students, families, and staff as our top priority. Please remember the recommended CDC steps that all of us can take to safeguard our own health and the health of our community.

These are some additional important school updates that we would like to share with you at this time:

School closure until April 29th, Easter Break and beyond: We plan on having a full-school prayer service for Holy Week tomorrow, Wednesday, April 8th, at 9a.m. and adjust our schedule so that there will no longer be online classes for the day. Our current plan is to stream the prayer service via a link in Google Classroom, we hope that parents and guardians can also join us. During Easter break, April 9th through April 17th, we will use the week as a time to rest and prepare for the remainder of the school year. Students and teachers have been working a great deal and deserve this time offline. With that said, we will not follow our modified school schedule and there will not be any online instruction. AP Teachers do have the option to assign students an Easter break assignment or project, as they would if we were physically in school.

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Per Governor Cuomo's directive, schools will be closed until **at least April 29th**. Therefore, we will continue remote learning starting the week of April 20th until further notice.

3rd Grades and Parent Teacher Conferences:

3rd quarter grades will be emailed to the parents/guardians and the students on Monday, April 20th. Parent Teacher conferences will take place via phone by appointment on Thursday, April 23rd and Friday, April 24th. More information will be sent the week of April 20th.

Regents: The June 2020 Regents have been cancelled. Students enrolled in a Regents course are exempt from the Regents Examination if they earn credit in such a course of study. In other words, if the student passes the class they will have a designation on their transcript that, despite not taking the Regents, the course will fulfill Regents requirements. More information will be sent the week of April 20th.

Graduation/Prom: We continue to receive many questions about Graduation, Senior Prom and Junior Ball. At this time, we have not made a decision regarding these events. We promise that if we are not able to have graduation as planned, we will determine how to celebrate our wonderful Class of 2020 and their families.

Zoom meetings:

At St. Joseph High School we have taken precautions to prevent others from joining our Zoom lessons. We have asked students not to share the Zoom meeting information and we have instructed all teachers to lock the Zoom sessions as soon as the students have signed in. As always, if we find any disruption, we will reassess the use of Zoom for remote learning.

Tuition:

It is also important to recognize that all faculty and staff are working, each and every day, throughout the day and often into the evenings to provide continuity for the students and to ensure that St. Joseph High School not only continues to run, but flourishes. Therefore, tuition will still be collected as every faculty and staff member will continue to be paid. It is my sincerest hope that your family has not been negatively impacted financially because of the pandemic. The message that we always send to parents regarding tuition remains the same; if you are facing financial hardship, please reach out to Ms. Tirado by email at mtirado@sjhsbridge.org so we can work with you on collection dates.

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NY State of Health:

Please see attached information regarding NY State.gov help regarding health insurance.

I thank you for the open lines of communication these past weeks. Please feel free to reach out to me with any questions that you may have or any support that you may need. St. Joseph High School's personnel and resources are here for you and for your family.

Most of all, let us continue to pray for each other and for all who are suffering at this time. During this Holy Week, as we accompany the Lord during these days of His Passion, I pray that we will all be strengthened by our faith and trust in God's abiding love.

Have a blessed, healthy and safe Easter.

Best regards,

Ms. Antonio
Principal