



ST. MICHAEL
the Archangel
CATHOLIC SCHOOL



March 13, 2020

TO: St. Michael School & Preschool Families
FROM: Msgr. Douglas Reed, Pastor
Mrs. Tara Navarro, Principal of St. Michael School
Mrs. Lisa Ciesla, St. Michael Preschool Director

RE: Coronavirus (COVID-19) Update

Dear St. Michael Preschool & St. Michael School Parents,

We are thankful for your continued trust and patience as we navigate through this challenging time surrounding the spread of the coronavirus COVID-19. After careful consideration, we have made the proactive decision for the best interest of our schools, parish, and the greater community that **St. Michael School and Preschool will close and transition to at-home learning beginning Monday, March 16**. This decision was made following the guidance of federal, state, and local public health agencies, along with the approval of Msgr. Douglas Reed, pastor of St. Michael Parish, Bishop Zarama with the Diocese of Raleigh, and the Catholic Schools Office. Our parish and school leadership will reassess on Friday, March 27 *if* we will reopen our schools on Monday, March 30. We will communicate accordingly with all families.

Please be assured that there are NO confirmed cases of COVID-19 in our St. Michael Parish or schools. Rather, we made this difficult decision out of an abundance of caution and the recommendation for greater social distancing. This time period away from our school buildings is for the safety of all our students, faculty, and families. Both the St. Michael School and Preschool will remain open today until 6 p.m. for students or family members to stop by to gather any books or materials they may need. Please contact our Administration if you need access to the school buildings next week. All school-sponsored field trips, gatherings, and other extracurricular clubs and events from March 16-27 have been postponed until further notice.

We are confident our teachers and students are well-equipped and prepared to continue their education. St. Michael School families will receive detailed information about how distance learning will occur from their children's Kindergarten through Grade 8 teachers. **Parents of St. Michael Preschool and StMS full-day PreK students will receive forthcoming communication with suggested age-appropriate, at-home learning activities.**

Our hope is that we will return to normalcy as soon as possible. As we move forward and evaluate changing information, we will continue to communicate via email and social media. Please check the St. Michael School dedicated [Coronavirus Updates webpage](#) for the most up-to-date information. We encourage you to keep your child free from concern, and we thank you for your continued support.

We recognize and understand this is a difficult situation, and it may be a hardship for some families. Please reach out to school and church leadership if there is anything we can do to support your family during this time. Let us continue to pray for one another and all those affected by this virus, their caregivers, and their families.

St. Michael the Archangel, pray for us.

God bless,
Msgr. Douglas Reed, Pastor
Tara Navarro, Principal
Lisa Ciesla, Director