



Cardinal Stritch

Catholic High School & Academy

March 26, 2020

Dear Parents and Students,

This has been quite a week! Every Thursday, I will send you updated information about what is going on with Stritch and in our community.

Yesterday, we were given some changes about some school-related items from the Governor and the General Assembly.

- State and other standardized testing will be waived for the 2019-2020 school year without penalty to the school or the student. Students in the third grade responsible for passing the Third Grade Reading Guarantee are promoted to the fourth grade unless the Principal and Reading Teacher have previously discussed retention and non-promotion with a student's family.
- The graduation requirement for our Seniors with regard to the State Tests 18 points have been lifted for the Class of 2020 because of the waiver on Standardized Tests. Diplomas are given based on meeting the other requirements for credits and other criteria at the local level (Cardinal Stritch).
- The General Assembly is keeping the list of EdChoice schools that was used for the 2019-2020 school year. It is imperative that we receive all of your paperwork regarding EdChoice as soon as possible because the window for application and renewal begins April 1, 2020. Please contact Mrs. Pelz at lpelz@cardinalstritch.org with questions or to submit your documentation.
- Special education meetings will be held by phone conference or video conference with parents beginning next week. Our intervention specialists will reach out via email or phone call to make those appointments. It is imperative that we do not let your student's IEP or service plan go out of compliance.

Many of you have reached out to me with your concerns about the expectations for students during our distance learning. As we navigate this new area of learning, teachers and students are adapting to these new models. Our intention is for teachers to keep teaching and for students to keep learning. We know that there are "glitches" with technology and uploading assignments. We are all experiencing these issues, so please communicate with the teachers when they occur for your students.

For students in Preschool through 4th grade, we are working out a system to collect completed work and distribute new student work. Please stay tuned!

High School students were added to Campus Ministry Google classrooms. Although our learning looks different, high school students are still required to complete their Stewards of Stritch (S.O.S.) service hours. The service requirement is 30 hours for Seniors, 25 for Juniors, 20 for Sophomores, and 15 for 9th graders. Please read the communication that was sent to students from Miss Mahoney. If you have questions, contact her at kmahoney@cardinalstritch.org.

There are many questions about upcoming events on the Cardinal Stritch calendar. As we get new information from our State leaders, the Cardinal Stritch administrative staff meets to discuss the calendar and make decisions. Our school staff must have the ability to collaborate, organize, and plan good events. We will update you as decisions are made.

The following school events are canceled due to our school closure from COVID-19:

- College & Career Fair and Junior Achievement on Friday, April 17, 2020
- The Art Exhibit for April 16-23 and the Awards Ceremony on Sunday, April 19, 2020
- The Earth Day Service Day on April 24, 2020
- Cabaret on May 2 and 3, 2020

As of today, I do not have answers about Prom, Honors Assembly, and Graduation. We will have a Baccalaureate and Graduation event, but we are not sure when it will happen or how it will look. Our Seniors will put on their caps and gowns. They will be acknowledged for their achievements. And I will proudly hand each of them a diploma!

Spring break is from April 6-13, 2020. There will be no school work required of the students during this week. We are scheduled to return for class on Tuesday, April 14, 2020 unless our State leaders change that timeline.

We are also putting all of this information on the school website at cardinalstritch.org under the COVID-19 update. If you have questions, please reach out to our staff. All the email addresses are on the school website. Click the About Us tab, choose Faculty and Staff, and the roster will come up.

We are here for you! We are praying for you!

In Christ,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Melissa (Frank) Empie".

Melissa (Frank) Empie '86
Principal