



Mater Dei Prep Task Force

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March 13, 2020

Dear Members of the Mater Dei Prep Community,

As you know from previous communications, we have been closely monitoring the quickly evolving news and information about the spread of Coronavirus (COVID-19) in Monmouth County and the surrounding area. We have been informed by medical and public health experts, both locally, nationally, and internationally. We have talked with members of our community and we have been in regular contact with administrators at other schools, many of whose students have siblings and friends at Mater Dei Prep. The COVID-19 will continue to be monitored for the health and safety of our students as well as the broader community.

While Mater Dei Prep has not yet had either a case of or known exposure to COVID-19 reported to us by our faculty, staff, or students, we have decided to proactively close the School starting at the end of the school day, Friday, March 13th, through Sunday, March 29th. We plan to resume classes on Monday, March 30th.

This decision was not made lightly. It was guided first by our priority to protect the health and safety of our students, families, faculty, and staff. Given the imperfect information about actual, rather than reported, case of and exposures to COVID-19, we are taking steps to protect our community. In addition, we are finding it increasingly difficult to maintain school activities and routines while also cooperating with public health advisories emphasizing social distancing and our civic responsibility to do what we can to slow the spread of COVID-19 in our community, especially among the sick and elderly.

Our closure will begin at the end of the school day on Friday, March 13th. Faculty and staff will be able to come on campus to advance their preparations for remote learning if required. We will continue to assess conditions and determine whether we can re-open as scheduled on March 30th or whether the closure will continue beyond the break. Students and families will be kept informed in the coming days. Should the closure continue after March 30th, we will maintain our educational program through our remote learning plans.

Mater Dei Prep administrators, faculty, and staff will be accessible through email next week and after break if the closure continues; you can find their contact information on www.materdeiprep.org. All athletics (practices and games), arts (rehearsals and performances), and club activities are canceled as of the end of the school day on Friday, March 13th. We recognize these cancellations will be deeply disappointing to students who have been working hard to prepare for their seasons and performances, but we need to prioritize their and our community's long-term health and safety. We will update everyone about the reopening of the athletics and arts programs as soon as we can, and more information will be shared in the coming weeks.

During the closure, our maintenance team will proceed with the deep clean of the campus necessary to safely resume normal class operations.

You will receive regular email communications from the COVID-19 MDP Task Force, as we continue to assess conditions during our closure. All of our communications, along with other updates, will be posted to the MDP Response to COVID-19 Information page at www.materdeiprep.org. Monitoring of this evolving situation of COVID-19 and its potential impact for our school community will continue to be evaluated.

As you know, we have already asked families and employees who may be traveling to CDC level two or three countries in the near future to self-quarantine for fourteen days after returning to the United States. We continue to urge everyone to practice illness prevention routines and to pay attention to guidance coming from local, state, and federal health authorities especially with respect to social distancing practices intended to slow the spread of the virus. Students should try not to gather in large groups during the school closure.

I recognize that this impending spring closure and the possibility of an extended closure after March 30th, are unsettling. We are also deeply aware of the difficulty this decision may cause many families in arranging childcare. Please reach out to us – our administration, mdptaskforce@materdeiprep.org and me – at any time for help and guidance as we move through this uncertain time together. Specific information regarding online learning will be sent to students by Monday, March 16th via PowerSchool and their Mater Dei Prep email addresses.

I am profoundly grateful for your patience, flexibility, and resolve.

Go Seraphs!

Very best regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Simon Bosco". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Dr. Simon Bosco
Chair, Board of Trustees
Mater Dei Prep
sbosco@materdeiprep.org