March 12, 2020

Dear Partnership Families:

As you may have already seen, in light of the growing coronavirus (COVID-19) health crisis, the Archdiocese of New York will close all Catholic elementary schools from Monday, March 16 through at least Friday, March 20. As your principal has shared with you, our seven Partnership Schools will have a half-day dismissal tomorrow, March 13. Following that dismissal, our schools will remain closed through at least Friday, March 20.

While we know that any school closure presents a hardship to our students and families, we believe that this is the right decision. The strongest evidence from state, local, and world leaders suggests that taking swift, community-wide action early is the best thing we can do to support the City-wide effort to stem the spread of COVID-19.

Across our schools, teachers, leaders, and network support staff have been working to prepare for the likely event of school closure for several weeks. As part of those preparations, we have pulled together resources that will allow students to continue independent academic study while our schools are closed. Tomorrow, students will be sent home with some take-home work, and teachers and leaders will be meeting after student dismissal to put final preparations on additional remote work plans and options for your children.

Our intention is that students will be able to complete their work without parent supervision, but also that they have productive, curriculum-aligned practice to keep their academic skills sharp and to help fill their days in productive and creative ways.

Throughout the school closure, please continue to alert your principal if you test positive for coronavirus, or if you have regular, close contact with someone who has tested positive. We will continue to monitor and track this information so that we can work together to track the spread of the virus within our communities. In addition, while our schools are closed, all buildings will undergo additional deep cleaning and disinfecting.

We will continue to work with the Archdiocese of New York and to monitor state and federal guidelines as the impact of the coronavirus spread unfolds. Should school closure extend beyond next week, we will share that news as soon as a decision has been made.

Thanks to you for your continued support, for your understanding, and for your prayers as we all work together to support one another and our school communities. We remain your partners in our shared goal of helping your children grow in knowledge and virtue, and we will continue to pray for the safety and good health of everyone in our community.

Sincerely,

Kathleen Porter-Magee
Superintendent