



May 6, 2020

Dear Villa Parents,

Our amazing Villa Junior High faculty have been working on creative ways to observe the current pandemic guidelines while commemorating and celebrating our special St. Ursula Villa traditions. At yesterday's May Crowning, Maria Halaby crowned the statue of Mary on the Manor House lawn accompanied by her attendants Addison Roney and Kate Sullivan who were all selected by their peers for exemplifying Mary's characteristics. Each 8th grader joined the ceremony for an individual social-distanced photo in front of the crowned statue. May is the month of Our Blessed Mother Mary, and we ask for her guidance and intercession as our school and community experience the stress and challenges of these uncertain times.

We also ask for special prayers for members of our worldwide Ursuline family - especially our Ursuline Sisters and members of the Company of St. Ursula in Northern Italy, an area devastated by the COVID-19 virus. At last report, 20 members of the Company have died, many others are hospitalized, and everyone has lost family members and friends to the virus. Additionally, the Casa Sant'Angela, a hospitality center for Ursuline pilgrims, faces difficult circumstances without guests or programs. Your prayers are needed and appreciated for these important aspects of our Ursuline community.

The impact of the COVID-19 virus is felt around the world and certainly at St. Ursula Villa where we are wrapping up a most unusual school year. Our teachers truly miss their students and have demonstrated flexibility and ingenuity to stay connected with them while delivering quality instruction. We realize there are end-of-year topics to address, including turning in school materials and returning students' personal items from their classrooms. We will communicate those arrangements soon, as well as other tactical information for next year, such as school supplies orders and summer academic work.

Looking ahead to 2020-21, we are pleased to announce that Ms. Lisa Wolfer will serve as St. Ursula Villa's Interim Assistant Principal. Ms. Wolfer has been with the Villa since 2005 in various roles including Traditional Kindergarten teacher; 6th Grade Religion, Science, Social Studies, and Math teacher; and most recently as Director of Early Childhood and member of the Administrative Team. Ms. Wolfer's familiarity and experience with the Villa's programs and curriculum ensures a smooth transition over this next year and makes her an excellent choice as Interim Assistant Principal. Ms. Wolfer will continue to work closely with the Early Childhood Program and will expand her scope to include academic work in TK-8 grades.

The St. Ursula Villa administration is continually assessing information to develop effective and appropriate scenarios for next year. We are grateful for the ongoing support from our parents, students, and faculty during this pandemic crisis. Please join us in praying for our larger Ursuline community, especially in Italy. Please pray for our Villa students who are forced to miss Villa highlights and ceremonies such as the Talent Show, May Party, and First Communion. Pray to Our Blessed Mother Mary that our Villa families will remain safe and that when we are together again, we will all recognize the ways this experience has made us stronger.

Sincerely,

Polly and Kent