



April 28, 2020

Dear Villa Parents,

Spring is usually such a busy and exciting time at St. Ursula Villa with First Communion, May Party, Graduation activities, May Crowning, and many other events. Our lovely campus is now quiet and empty and I am so sad that our students and families will not share our special Villa traditions this year – my last year as Villa Principal.

We at St. Ursula Villa were very disappointed at the announcement that Ohio schools will continue distance learning through the end of the 2019-20 school year – and I'm sure you and your family felt the same way. The current guidelines provide a timeline and framework for the next four weeks; future government announcements and guidelines will inform decisions and communications about this summer and the 2020-21 school year. We will keep you updated as this changing crisis continues to impact us all – today and tomorrow.

The St. Ursula Villa administration - Kent Halaby, Lisa Wolfer, and myself - regularly monitor teachers' weekly educational plans. Teachers will continue to provide direct instruction through video conferencing and recorded video lessons.

To address questions and provide a framework of expectations, please note the following guidelines for the rest of the 2019-20 school year:

#### Preschool-Kindergarten

- Teachers will use a modified progress report to identify student strengths and establish goals to address student challenges.

#### 1<sup>st</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> Grade

- Classroom teachers will collect and assess samples of student written work and will communicate the specific pieces of work to be returned for assessment. This work will be sent to the teachers via email for the immediate future, and revised as restrictions are modified.
- Trimester 3 grades will be Pass/Fail. Teachers will use the collected assessments to determine a passing trimester grade.
- Specialty classes will not have Trimester 3 report card grades. Specialty teachers will continue to send weekly lesson plans for use as student enrichment opportunities.

#### Junior High

- Trimester 3 grades will continue to be letter grades.

We have received questions about how school materials will be collected over the summer. We will safely collect textbooks, computers, and other school materials in accordance to the guidelines in place at the time and will inform you when those procedures are implemented.

Villa Summer Camps are also under discussion and we are committed to safely hosting them if possible within the recommendations of the CDC, the Ohio Health Department, and Gov. DeWine. We would truly love to be there for our community and hope to be able to provide much-needed childcare and social interaction for our students. If we are forced to cancel Camp Villa or if you would rather not commit to Summer Camp during these uncertain times, we will provide full refunds as we have incurred minimal expenses at this point.

Looking ahead to the 2020-21 school year and anticipating various restrictions that might remain in August, we are developing scenarios that range from returning to full time face-to-face classroom settings to continuing to deliver instruction solely through distance learning. We will monitor educational guidelines as they develop and proactively evaluate our current distance learning methods and investigate alternate Learning Management System as warranted.

Over the last six weeks, I have watched our Villa community come together and rise above the immense challenges of balancing parenting, remote learning, and full-time jobs. I am confident that we all have the strength to carry on for the balance of this school year and the grace to recognize that, indeed, we are blessed to be sharing this difficult time with each other.

Sincerely,

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