



March 26, 2020

Dear Connelly Families,

We are currently in our second week of remote learning, and I cannot tell you how very proud I am of our students, faculty, staff, and YOU, the parents and guardians of our students! This transition has not been easy on our community especially given our unique circumstances, but like everything else, we have risen to the occasion and have reminded the world of who are!

As our remote learning continues to be the mode of teaching and learning for the near future, it is imperative that we monitor it for necessary tweaks that will add to the experience while bringing balance to the process. Recently, it has come to my attention that many of our students are feeling overwhelmed by the amount of screen time and off-line work being assigned. Add to that their level of stress around the reality that everything...literally everything is changing for them, and we have a group of brilliant and beautiful young women who simply need a mental health break. Our teachers, who maintain academic excellence through rigor and online "live" coursework, are some of the few teachers in our area that are maintaining that live approach to teaching and learning every day; I do not wish to move away from live interaction as I feel that it is important to remain socially connected through virtual classes but, I also want to ensure our communities overall health and well-being.

Beginning tomorrow, we will move to a four-day learning week with every Friday used as a mental health/family time break. We are on a rotating schedule that will not change so, classes that were to meet tomorrow (Friday, 27 March) will meet on Monday with the rotation continuing from there. As an added bonus, we will continue to host our Faith Fridays, which are an important aspect of our staying socially connected to one another, while engaging in prayer and discussion. Faith Friday will meet every Friday at 11:00 AM and our entire community is invited - please look for Edmodo posts with more information. The value of remaining connected through our Wednesday Rosary and Faith Friday, cannot be understated, and I hope that by giving our community this Friday break, you will find the time to fully participate in community prayer.

I thank you for your continued support and keep you all in my thoughts and prayers.

In Peace,

Jacqueline Quiñones Sienkowski, J.D.
Head of School
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