Dear St. Joseph’s Catholic School Family,

We are, of course, continuing to monitor the spread of COVID-19, and I want to ask for your assistance concerning a couple of matters as well as share with you our contingency plans should we have to suspend classes temporarily.

Please:

1. continue to encourage your sons and daughters to wash their hands frequently and use good respiratory hygiene by covering their mouths when coughing and sneezing.
2. keep your children home from school if they have a fever or are exhibiting signs of a respiratory illness
3. notify the school if
   1. a student, parent, guardian, or household member tests positive for COVID-19
   2. a student, parent, guardian, or household member has had close contact with someone who tests positive for COVID-19

The school will mandate testing for any students who have been exposed to the virus. If negative, the student may return to school after a 14-day quarantine with a physician’s clearance.

Should we determine that it is unsafe to continue to meet for school, we will suspend classes and educate our students through a digital platform. We have established protocols to conduct school virtually through Google Meet (e-learning/virtual classroom) should that become necessary. Mainly, all classes will meet virtually daily according to a pre-established bell schedule. On Wednesday, March 11 the faculty was trained in e-learning and the Google platform and we will continue to invest in and develop these resources. Students will receive instruction and direct training in this platform in the coming days.

At this time, we are canceling/postponing all non-essential school trips/events outside of the Upstate in the immediate future. Determinations are still being made regarding summer trips. The event moderator/trip coordinator will distribute details and communications regarding any trip/event cancellations. School athletics and other after-school activities will continue as scheduled for the time being.

The cafeteria service is taking precautions as well. As of Monday, the open salad bar and soup availability have been suspended. Pre-made salads and portioned soup will be available for purchase. All silverware will be prepackaged.

As a precautionary measure for student safety, we are closing campus to visitors during school hours, who do not have a pre-arranged appointment, until further notice. Our volunteers/parents, vendors, delivery people, and families in the admissions process are allowed on campus. This will mainly affect the alumni home from college on Spring Break or class cancellation.

Thank you for your attention to and cooperation with these matters. We think these steps are reasonable and necessary to keep our campus a safe environment for our students. We will continue to monitor the spread of the virus and update you accordingly.

May God bless us with a speedy end to the spread of this virus,

Keith Kiser
Headmaster