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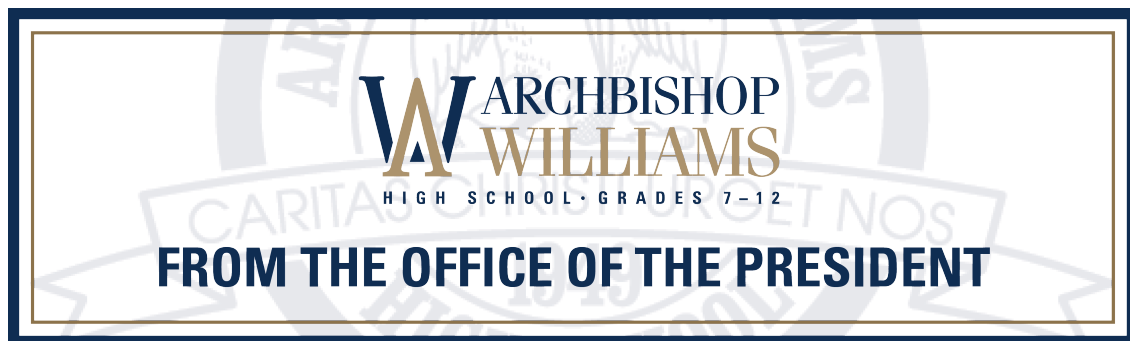
Virtual Instruction Update: Gov. Baker Closes Schools Until May 4

1 message

AWHS Offices of the President and Principal <mvolonnino@awhs.org>
Reply-To: AWHS Offices of the President and Principal <mvolonnino@awhs.org>
To: kwalsh@awhs.org

Wed, Mar 25, 2020 at 7:27 PM

AWHS Offices of the President and Principal



Dear AWHS Families and Students,

Earlier today, Governor Baker extended the closure of all Massachusetts schools until May 4. Therefore, AWHS will continue with our robust virtual instruction program until at least that date. While we had hoped to resume normal classes sooner, we are well-prepared to do our part to help “bend the curve” and keep our community safe. As school leaders, we could not be more proud of the way our faculty, students, and parents have supported each other academically, socially, and emotionally under these unprecedented circumstances.

Thank you to everyone who completed [the parent survey](#) and [the student survey](#) sent last Friday. The surveys are still open if you haven’t responded and would like to do so.

The feedback has proven very helpful in determining what adjustments we might need to make to our online program, especially in light of this now month-long extension. One clear result from the parent survey is a desire for a “Parent Zoom,” which we discussed today with the leadership of the Parent Support Board. On Friday, we will announce dates for this forum as well as other insights gained from our reflections on the first two weeks of virtual instruction.

A few immediate implications of Governor Baker’s announcement:

- The postponement pushes back the start of the Spring Sports season, which had been set to begin on April 27. Our Athletic Director Gordie McClay has already

begun preliminary conversations on the implications of the delay and we are in active dialogue with the leadership of all the members of the CCL, our sports league

- The May start also pushes us nearer to the planned dates for Prom/Senior Week/Graduation. We had already scheduled a Zoom Meeting for tomorrow afternoon with senior class representatives to begin a dialogue on the potential scenarios for the remainder of their senior year. AWHHS stands committed to giving the Class of 2020 the send-off they deserve.
- The delay also means that at least half of the 4th Quarter will take place in this online format, so it is important that students remain attentive to their studies. Keep in mind that Grades for Quarter 3 close this Friday.
- Lastly, our school community will not be able to celebrate any aspect of Holy Week in person, which looks to be the reality for the entire Archdiocese. Our Campus Ministry team will continue to find ways that we can walk our Lenten journey together, while remaining physically apart.

Today, March 25 -- nine months before Christmas -- is the Feast of the Annunciation, celebrating when the Angel Gabriel told the Blessed Virgin that she was to be the Mother of Christ. Mary, who would not have been much older than our students (if at all), said "Yes" to God, and in so doing set into motion the salvation of the world. In this difficult time, let us draw strength from her example. May her divine intercession draw us closer to her Son, whose love continues to drive us on.

Sincerely,

Dennis M. Duggan, Jr. '70, Esq.
Michael R. Volonnino, Ph.D.



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