

From: [Fewel Teresa](#)
Subject: Updates
Date: Sunday, March 29, 2020 6:07:00 PM
Attachments: [Continuous Learning Task Force Guidance Kansas.pdf](#)

[ZOOM setting guide](#)

[Special Education Guidance.pdf](#)

School Leaders,

It has been a few days so wanted to share the most recent information from several conference calls with OSPI, SBE, WFIS and WSCC over the last week and also to share reminders and updates related to our schools.

First, I want to give a shout to all of you who sent emails to our US Representatives in support of the CARES stimulus packet. Private schools are in the package. While there are opportunities for Catholic schools to receive financial assistance, the funds come with strings attached and need further analysis. Working with our partners in private school education, we will be lobbying for equity in allocations. The USCCB will be instrumental in giving guidance because of their strong lobbying team. Even WFIS is awaiting USCCB's full analysis of the package!

Here is information related to questions I have received and ideas that might be useful to schools.

- The Superintendent of Public Instruction has set a tone that schools could be closed until the end of the year and has published a planning guide for school districts that they are to try and meet the needs of all learners inclusive of online learning, Bulletin 024-20 ES. I offer this as information to how the state is moving forward regarding instruction and student learning. The attached Continuous Learning Task Force Guidance from Kansas is an exceptional document for planning and monitoring school plans.

OSPI is also trying to get colleges and universities to engage in conversations and to craft some shared guidance for seniors heading to college in regards to admissions, for example, what if P/F grades are given or certain classes not offered because of the school closure. How is admission impacted? I have requested a seat at the table if a consortium is formed. I will be reaching out to high school leaders for input, feedback and most of all guidance on this topic.

The State has been voicing the need to have early notification should students be returning to school April 27. There is a sense that schools could be closed longer. To that end, based on the Governor's orders and the most current information, if public schools decide to remain closed until the end of the year, private schools may want to lobby to return sooner even if public schools remain closed. The question has been posed! No ruling would be made until the Governor's order for the next phase is known.

Special Education Guidance – Should you have students on IEPs see OSPI's [Special Education Guidance for COVID-19](#). Also attached is the federal government's guidance for IEP students.

- State Board of Education met on Thursday afternoon to write "rules" for waivers and graduation requirements. I am waiting on the "rules" written for private schools. Once I have the written guidance I will send a separate email. The next Special Board Meeting is

scheduled for April 8 from 1:30-4:30 in which all the “rules” will be voted on for adoption. Please [subscribe to SBE news](#) to receive the invitation and documents once they are available.

- **Talking about Touching – Protecting All God’s Children lessons** are still to be taught this spring to the best of each buildings ability. I have had a conversation with Caitlin McKenzie and she will set up a link to Box where she will place all of the lesson plans. Principals would just send out the link to parents where they can access the lesson plans. Caitlin will be communicating directly with principals.
- If your building has a construction project in the works currently and you have not had a conversation with Ed Foster this past week, you must call Ed. 206-730-7204. Our project, as of late Wednesday, after the Governor’s press conference are no longer considered “essential work.” If there is an issue of safety or a health and safety issue then Ed will work with you and the Sate to find a solution.
- Maintenance of schools is considered “essential workforce”. Keeping the building clean especially as teachers and staff perform tasks related to remote learning duties is critical. The issue for many of our schools is our maintenance staff falls into the category of “vulnerable”. Cleaning must be non-vulnerable persons. If this is the case in your school please, to the best of your ability assign non-vulnerable individuals to those tasks.
- Finances are heavy on the minds of all of us right now and especially for you as leader of your building. The Archdiocese has initiated a PRF process for parishes. Schools should talk with your pastor regarding any financial concerns or questions. At this time, schools would be a part of the PRF process with the parish. OCS and Fulcrum were grateful for the conversations with the regions about the struggles each school is experiencing and possible ways to help. More will coming.
- “Essential Letters” stating an employee works for the Archdiocese and should be traveling to and from their employment location are not necessary nor called for by the Governor orders. This action is not being enforced at the state level. The letters will not be asked for by law enforcement.
- I have learned that if you have a Zerox copier, you likely have a translation option through your copier which may be helpful for communicating with families. Please check with Zerox.
- ZOOM – Attached you will find the ZOOM setting guide, a readymade list of consideration to ensure safety of all our staff and students while using the application.
- A friendly reminder and consideration for wise decisions when it comes to using student pictures sent from home for social media! We want to balance community building with safety precautions. For example, consider choosing not to post students doing their studies in their pajamas or posting behaviors that would not be acceptable inside the school house. Always our decisions are made in the best interest of a student’s dignity and safety. Be mindful of Safe Environment policies.

- Spring Break for many of our schools will fall April 13-17. Some may fall before Easter and some may fall even later in the spring. Please have a plan or back up for checking your communications. This is the time frame that decisions will likely be coming forward regarding further school closures or starting up on April 27. Remember to stay with your annual calendar dates. School would end on your published last day of school.
- Holy Week At Home with Faith - Deacon Eric and Sandy are collaborating and will publish ideas through the CP2 for parishes and schools then repost on <https://mycatholicsschool.org> Sandy will provide more information in the Keystone.

I wish I could say that the tone of all those I have interacted with at the State level were optimistic about the return to school on April 27. The Governor continues to track real time data and as long as the numbers are ascending, he is unlikely to end school closures. The rural areas of our state are just now ratchetting up.

As I have listened to both public and private school administrator's talk about the work during COVID-19, I am so very proud of what our Catholic schools have already accomplished. The staff commitment and dedication to provide instruction and support to students and families is exceptional and is right up there with the best of the best! Thank you for your leadership, which I know, is why our staffs are succeeding.

St. Martin de Porres pray for all our health care providers!
Blessings, Terri

TERESA FEWEL | Asst. Superintendent of Operations and Government Programs
Office for Catholic Schools | Archdiocese of Seattle

O: 206-274-7655 | **F:** 206-654-4651

W: mycatholicsschool.org