



DELBARTON SCHOOL

Dear Parents and Students,

After consulting throughout the day with our COVID-19 Management Team here at school, and out of an abundance of caution and a sense of moral and civic responsibility to help prevent the spread of COVID-19, **I have decided to close Delbarton School for two weeks, beginning Monday, March 16 through Friday, March 27.** This closure takes effect at the close of business on Thursday, March 12. At the end of this two week closure period, we will make an assessment of the situation to determine if normal operations will resume on Monday, March 30, or if an additional closure period of two weeks is warranted.

Several key reasons motivated me to take this significant step. Local governments in our region have either urged or prohibited gatherings of more than 200 people. Moreover, as a regional school that draws students from a 40 mile radius, our students and staff are at a greater risk of carrying the COVID-19 virus around our region than neighborhood schools would be. Other schools in our area, both public and private, are joining us in suspending normal operations to help stem the spread of COVID-19.

During this closure period, classes will continue online, using our Schoology course management platform and our Google Education suite of instructional tools. During this closure period, all student activities, retreats, service programs, athletic practices and games, and use of Delbarton School facilities by parent groups, alumni, or outside groups are cancelled or prohibited, without exception. Delbarton School offices will remain open. Office staff and Buildings and Grounds employees are expected to report to work on the short hours schedule (8:30 am to 2:30 pm, Monday through Friday). Modifications to work schedules for employees during this closure period may be made as circumstances require.

Students and staff may come to school on Friday, March 12 or Monday, March 16, between 8:30 am and 2:30 pm to retrieve books or other materials. Further details about access to school buildings by faculty and students during the closure period will be provided by Mr. Hartle and Mr. Ruebling.

Let us pray for one another as we face this challenge together. The Delbarton spirit of community in faith is vital now more than ever. Let us especially pray for those most drastically affected in body, mind or spirit.

Yours in Christ and St. Benedict,

Fr. Michael Tidd, O.S.B.
Headmaster



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