

Dear Magnificat Students, Parents, and Guardians,

It has officially been one week since we made the difficult decision to cancel all on-campus classes and events, and we are now three days into online learning. I hope you and your families are staying safe and healthy during this unusual and uncertain time.

As a school community, we are incredibly fortunate to be able to continue providing a Magnificat education throughout this time. All of our students have the technology and the connectivity required for instruction to continue.

We are deeply grateful to our faculty members who have been working so hard to make sure learning continues, no matter the circumstances. Students, thank you for your ongoing commitment to your education and for taking the necessary steps to adapt to this new way of “going to school”. And parents, thank *you* for all you are doing to support your daughters’ at-home learning pursuits! One housekeeping note: Please remember that if a student will be “absent” from a class or classes on any given day, you are asked to communicate that via email to Mrs. Carol Vogel cvogel@maghs.org, by 9:00 a.m. on the day of the absence. Mrs. Vogel will then notify the student's teachers. Teachers will track students' attendance and participation throughout the weeks of school closure. Student participation expectations may include one or more of the following: a Google Meet session during the scheduled class time, a discussion board post with a specific deadline, an email check-in, the submission of an assignment or assessment. Thank you for your cooperation!

Though classes are continuing, we are acutely aware of the challenges that this situation poses to our collective sense of identity as a Magnificat community. Although social distancing is keeping us from being physically together every day and for special events, we are committed to creating opportunities for virtual connection. As a community of faith, we know we are united in prayer no matter where we are. These extraordinary times are calling us to not only deepen our faith, but expand our notions of how we live in community with one another.

Times of great challenge also present us with opportunities, and I ask all of us to consider what this time is calling us to do and who we are called to be in our families, our neighborhoods, and our national and global communities. We can no longer be together in the ordinary ways that we are used to, so what new ways are summoning us? How can we be present to and care for one another to assure that we remain energized and fortified? The Leadership Team is considering these questions daily, and I encourage you to share with us what you and your families are doing to stay connected in this new reality.

Please be attentive to your inboxes and social media feeds for information about how we can continue to come together as a Magnificat community in the weeks ahead—starting with the virtual Gala beginning on Saturday followed by Spirit Week next week! We have also created a webpage where we will honor events that should have happened during this time, which we encourage you to check frequently for updates: www.magnificaths.org/virtual-events.

As always, please do not hesitate to reach out to me, Mrs. Dwyer-Kueller, Ms. Arundel, your teachers, and counselors with any questions and concerns that are coming up for you. We are here for you, and we will all get through this together!

Our Lenten journey this year certainly looks different than any of us could have imagined. As we face the challenges of sacrifice and physical isolation, may we look to Christ and to one another for support, guidance, and light. This time is reminding us that we truly are an Easter people,

and we look forward to the day when we can finally come together again in joyous celebration. In the meantime, each of you will continue to be in my daily prayers. Take good care of yourselves and one another.

In the Spirit of Mary's *Magnificat*,
Mrs. Clark