



**HEALTH & SAFETY – COVID-19 UPDATE**  
**Thursday, April 2, 2020**

**Cardinal Newman High School Campus remains closed.**  
**Online Distance Learning continues from April 3 through the end of the school year.**

**All events, athletic practices, competitions, and co-curricular activities remain cancelled.**

**Easter Break for students, faculty and staff ~ April 9 - April 19, 2020**

Dear Cardinal Newman High School Parents, Guardians and Students,

In just three weeks of distance learning, our resilient and caring faculty and students have adapted together quickly! While we have many successes to celebrate, we are continually improving our teaching practices while gathering feedback from our students learning while inquiring, “how their day is going”, “what is working well,” and “how we can be of more support”. We are truly appreciative of the wonderful oversight and direction given by parents and all extended family members ensuring that our students succeed. We know these times must not be easy or smooth. Please continue to reach out to us for support.

By now, you have received information through Governor Newsom’s office, and California State Superintendent Thurmond’s office announcing that “California public schools will remain physically closed for the rest of the school year as the state works to slow the spread of the coronavirus outbreak”. The Sonoma County Office of Education has also announced that Distance Learning will continue through the end of the school year for local public schools.

Under the direction of the Diocese of Santa Rosa Catholic Schools Department, we expect that the Cardinal Newman High School campus will remain closed through the end of the school year, yet if we are cleared to open by the Public Health Officer and the Diocese earlier, we certainly will.

In the meantime, we will enthusiastically continue the Online Distance Learning program in a faith environment which includes instructing, supporting, monitoring and reporting student achievement of the academic standards necessary for success for the remainder of this school year.

We know that this news is disappointing and distressing for everyone in the Cardinal Newman community. We also know that all of us are justifiably concerned about how to carry out the many May events that celebrate student achievements which includes award assemblies, Senior Boards Day, Baccalaureate Mass and Graduation.

We will be working on contingency plans and as we gather information and determine next steps we will share that information and any necessary changes with you.

Last Friday, Pope Francis delivered an “Urbi et Orbi,” or “To the City and To the World” blessing, reserved only for very special occasions. In his blessing, he shared a reflection on the story of Jesus

calming the storm, reflecting on how we are all in fact “in the same boat,” facing coronavirus. While we continue to experience the significant discomfort of having routines abruptly changed and our usual sense of control diminished, Pope Francis shared a greater invitation with all: “The Lord asks us and, in the midst of our tempest, invites us to reawaken and put into practice that solidarity and hope capable of giving strength, support and meaning to these hours when everything seems to be floundering.”

We continue to keep all of you in our daily prayers asking our Lord to give you strength, and courage to find the best of yourself while appreciating a deeper sense of togetherness in family.

Please continue to access regular email updates including those sent from the Counseling Department and Campus Ministry. You may find more information and resources on the school’s website, [www.cardinalnewman.org](http://www.cardinalnewman.org), Health & Safety COVID-19 page.

Most sincerely,

Laura M. Held, President  
Bernadette Calhoun  
Rich Herrmann  
Graham Rutherford