



CANISIUS HIGH SCHOOL

JESUIT PREPARATION *for* COLLEGE...FOR LIFE

The Feast of St. Peter Canisius
April 27, 2020

Dear Canisius Parents and Guardians,

We pray this letter finds you and your family well.

Many Jesuit institutions throughout the world have St. Peter Canisius as their patron and we join with them today in giving thanks for the larger Jesuit community to which we belong. There are 62 Jesuit high schools and 27 colleges and universities in the USA and some 380 Jesuit high schools and 190 colleges and universities around the world. We are blessed to belong to such a large family of schools each sharing and united in our Jesuit mission.

As you know, the New York on Pause restrictions will keep our campus closed through at least May 15. We are developing plans for how we can safely reopen our campus if and when restrictions are lifted. We are also planning for the possibility that we must continue eLearning for the remainder of this school year. Because of this uncertainty, the June final exams will be canceled for this year. The last day of classes for the underclassmen will be June 5. Teachers will use these early days of June for continued instruction, review, and assessment. Please encourage your sons to keep working to their full potential as the school year comes to a close.

A separate letter was emailed to parents of seniors last week detailing options for celebrating our graduates as it has become clear that the commencement exercises scheduled for May 21 cannot happen as planned.

Today would have been the Junior Leadership Mass during which our juniors would have been celebrated as they prepare to assume leadership roles in our school community and the seniors prepare to wind up their high school years. Juniors also would have received their school rings or pins. We hope to incorporate this event into the Mass of the Holy Spirit at the start of the coming school year. The Junior Awards Ceremony and National Honor Society induction are also postponed until the fall. Sadly, the junior prom must be cancelled.

We are thankful for the care, kindness, and patience you have shown as we all find our paths through this uncharted territory, and we promise to keep you informed as our plans develop.

The Board of Trustees remains fully engaged and informed. Committees of the Board have been meeting regularly and the broad scope of their responsibilities assures that all aspects of school life are managed wisely and that the administration is thoughtful in its leadership.

One of the great consolations these days has been the work that your son and our faculty, staff and administration continue to do each day. The creativity and consistent effort have been nothing short of extraordinary.

Openness to growth is a characteristic of Jesuit education, and we are seeing examples daily of our students, their families, and our faculty and staff embracing this openness and growing in new ways. Some examples of creativity outside the classroom include Matt Talty '21 and his family [creating cards](#) to send to people in nursing homes, and encouraging others in the Canisius community to join the effort; Sam Harig '20 and Justin Ball '23 and their families making masks; our Campus Ministry department adapting the [senior retreat](#) to allow students to participate from home; Strength and Conditioning Coach Jason Hopkins designing [workouts and posting videos](#) to encourage physical fitness; nearly 70 students competing during Easter break in the Canisius NFL Madden eSports tournament; alumni sharing their time and knowledge via Zoom in our [Alumni Speaker Series](#); students leading us in [morning prayer](#) through videos on Twitter; our Fine Arts department developing a [community art project](#) that is open to all. And, if you haven't yet seen the multi-part musical performances by [James Oh '20](#) and [Santino Panzica '20](#), we encourage you to listen. These are but a few examples of what we have seen.

Reflecting on our growth, resilience, and care for one another is heartening. We know we still have challenging days ahead of us. We wish we could offer you more certainty on what the rest of the school year will look like, but as Dr. Anthony Fauci says, "we don't dictate the timeline, the virus does." Keeping our students and community safe remains our priority, and we will be in touch as our plan evolves.

With prayerful best wishes for you and your family,



Fr. David Ciancimino, SJ
President



Ms. Andrea Tyrpak-Endres
Principal