



Nativity Preparatory School

66 Spring Street
New Bedford, MA 02740
www.nativitynb.org

April 1, 2020

Dear Nativity Community,

We hope this letter finds you safe and healthy in this uncertain, difficult time. The health and safety of our students and our wider community continues to be at the forefront of our minds. Like all other schools in Massachusetts, our building remains closed until at least May 4. Fortunately, we have been able to make great progress on several fronts in order to keep our mission and our students front and center.

It has been tremendous to witness the engagement of our Nativity community over the past three weeks. Thanks to the generosity of the Board of Trustees and several individuals, we were able to purchase 65 new Chromebooks for our students and faculty. Thanks to our dedicated faculty and staff, we were able to distribute the computers and school materials, develop online classrooms, and design learning plans for each and every Nativity student. This initiative required all hands on deck, and the teamwork across our community was a true demonstration of our core values!

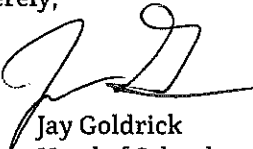
Teachers are communicating regularly with families during the closure. Each advisor is calling home every week to check in on the learning progress of each student and the health and well-being of his family. Teachers are holding daily "office hours" to help students with the academics, and will be hosting virtual check-ins as we move forward. So far, so good -- teachers are happy to be able to connect with the kids; students are doing coursework in English, math, science, and social studies, and connecting with each other via the virtual "water cooler". A student remarked that they like Google Classroom so much that they "hope we have school like this the rest of the year!" We don't, but we are happy to see the engagement!

Families have been surveyed regarding current concerns and needs, and they have been connected to resources wherever possible. Families are able to access regular school breakfast and lunch at many different schools across the city. We send our gratitude to the people working in the New Bedford Public Schools who are coordinating and serving these meals. If you know of any resources or organizations designed to help families with access to essentials, please do not hesitate to share them with us.

Furthermore, with the temporary school closing, the Nativity 2020 Celebration, scheduled for May 29, has been postponed to 2021. The Celebration was no ordinary fundraiser -- we intended to celebrate the 20th anniversary of Nativity's founding, as well as the successful completion of our very first capital campaign. Though the circumstances dictated the postponement, we are very excited to celebrate our past and toast to the future in 2021. We express our gratitude to our 2020 Celebration committee members and dedicated volunteers who, since September, have spent countless hours planning the event.

Community support and care for one another are essential in order for all of us to weather this storm. It is in moments like this that we realize how lucky we are to have the strong community that we have here at Nativity Prep! We are sincerely grateful for your continued support of our mission and students, and we hope that you remain safe and healthy. I will be back in touch when I have more news to report.

Sincerely,



Jay Goldrick
Head of School

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