

March 16, 2020

MONDAY MORNING ASSEMBLY

Good morning!

I hope you and your family are well.

What a difference a week makes ... our auditorium is eerily empty to the typical sights and sounds that each of you bring each Monday morning as we embark on another week of school. However, the St. Paul community is often at its best in times of adversity. In the coming weeks the disruption caused by this pandemic will demand a lot of each of us. This is where our core value of character will be tested and called upon to really rise to the occasion.

Last Monday, I asked you to reflect on what it means to you when I say, "Take care of yourself ... take care of each other." This week, that takes on an entirely different perspective.

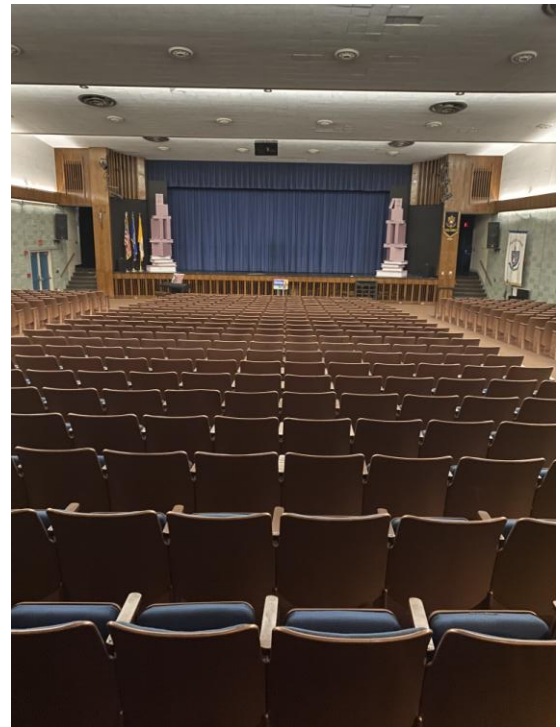
I want to reiterate what has been encouraged often these past several weeks ... it's important for you to take care of yourself:

- Wash your hands with soap and water frequently throughout the day,
- Keep your hands away from your face,
- Cough or sneeze into your cuff, and
- While it's human nature to want to be around others, practice "common sense" social distancing especially during the next two weeks

I ask that you change some habits in taking care of yourself during these uncertain times and in doing so you will ultimately be taking better care of others, especially your parents, grandparents and elderly relatives.

As you know, for now ... in-person classes have been suspended through March 27, to be replaced with virtual instruction and other alternative learning options. While our highest priority is the health and well-being of all members of our St. Paul community, we will also do everything possible to continue our mission of educating young minds, hearts and spirits, albeit in an unconventional way. No doubt, this will be a challenging transition for everyone. One that will require patience, flexibility, understanding from all ... and certainly commitment and personal motivation on your part.

The administration and faculty have been preparing for "when" this expected school closure was going to happen. Mr. Cooper will be sending you information about student expectations, online course delivery methods and other academic information later this afternoon. Understand that this unprecedented health crisis can change rapidly, and thus so too our academic plan. Be patient with us



but also be fully engaged in this process. Take ownership of this challenge and continue to shine online just like you are called to do every day in a physical classroom.

In addition, you can expect to hear from your respective teachers within the next day. While we have been planning and training to get our distance learning program in place, we have likewise been sensitive to the personal needs of our faculty and staff as they too attend to the immediate health and safety of their family members.

A reminder that all meetings, activities and events have been cancelled during this school closure. SAT prep classes have been suspended. The NHS Induction on March 25 will be rescheduled. Our spring musical, Matilda, has been postponed on April 3-5 with rescheduled performance dates forthcoming. The NHS Craft Fair on April 4 has been cancelled. There is a CIAC meeting this Wednesday with league representatives from across the state to discuss the spring athletic season.

Be assured that I will do my best to keep you and your parents informed throughout this school closure. Please check your St. Paul email frequently for updated school information or visit our website. Do not hesitate to reach out to me at cdupont@spchs.com or any other school administrator, teacher or school counselor, if you have any questions or concerns. While I'm sure you may have many questions, know that some of these questions do not have answers at this time.

We recognize that the steps we are taking are unprecedented and will create inconveniences for all of us. Once again, I ask for your patience and understanding as we move forward. Together, we can do this.

This morning, let us take a moment to pray for each of you, your families, our faculty and staff and our entire St. Paul community. Let us remember all those who are suffering, or will suffer from this terrible virus and that its spread will be contained for the benefit of all. We also pray for your special intentions that are in the silence of your heart.

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name.
Thy kingdom come; Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day, our daily bread, and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
Amen.

St. Paul ...pray for us!

I will stay in touch. Be safe, be well ... stay calm and let's be great in the face of this adversity!

Sincerely,

Mr. Dupont