



April 20, 2020

Good Afternoon,

I hope this email finds you and your families well. I am sure that by now all of you are aware of both the Governor's proclamation that closed public school buildings for the rest of the academic year, and also of the Diocese of Houma-Thibodaux's statement which announced that we would continue distance learning for the remainder of the year in compliance with the Governor's directive. This is certainly not how any of us imagined that we would finish our 2019-2020 school year. There were still lessons to be taught and learned, friendships to be made, goodbyes to be said, games still to play, dances, concerts, awards ceremonies, and all of the events that make the end of each school year so special. We must work together in these unprecedented times to create a positive end to the school year for our students.

So how do we move forward? As previously announced, our Senior class will not take exams and will finish their assignments on the week on May 4th-8th. We have also decided to waive exams for 8th-11th graders as well. Those students will finish their assignments on the week of May 18th-22nd. While we believe that it would be unfair to give students exams, please note that this makes the work being done at home more significant. The work completed at home will determine their 4th quarter grade which is 51% of their semester grade. Teachers are working diligently to ensure that your student is receiving the best education possible and is given every chance to be successful.

Over the last few weeks I have received numerous emails with questions about certain events. We want all of our students and parents to know that we are working to create memorable end of the year activities for our Seniors. We are currently planning the following virtual activities: Academic Signing Day, Athletic Convocation, Honors Convocation, and Senior Slideshow. While nothing can replace the live events, we still believe that our students deserve the honor of experiencing these events in the best manner we are capable of providing. We will stay in contact about all of these events and more as they get closer. I know that the topic of Graduation has garnered a lot of attention on television and social media and that there are some really innovative approaches to the challenges we currently face during this pandemic. We all want to have a live a graduation ceremony for our seniors and we are currently working with the Civic Center to secure a date in July in hopes that a live graduation will be possible by then. If not, we will look at all available options to provide our seniors and their families with the best possible experience. Again, nothing can replace the live event but we will work to create a memorable experience. While navigating the end of the 2019-2020 school year we are also planning for our future. We are finalizing our calendar for 2020-2021 and hope to have it to you soon. Many of the end of the year activities for our 8th-11th graders will be moved to the beginning of next year. As those specific dates are scheduled we will be sure to communicate that with you.

I cannot say enough how proud I am of our students, teachers, and our entire community. We have attempted to create some "normalcy" for our community while also celebrating our accomplishments

by hosting a number of projects on social media: daily prayer, virtual student of the day, guess the teacher's desk, Facebook filters "Terriers Together", SGA virtual week, senior spotlights, and more can be found on our various social media platforms. Get involved on those platforms and encourage your student(s) to do the same. We could all use a little good news right now.

I will leave you with an update regarding the process for selecting a new principal at Vanderbilt Catholic. It is my understanding that the Diocese plans to open the position this week and that the interview process will begin once there is a pool of qualified candidates. It has been an incredible honor to serve this community as principal for these 4 years and I want to thank Mr. David Boudreaux for bringing me to Vanderbilt Catholic. I look forward to serving the Vanderbilt community in this new role and I am confident that together we can achieve great things for our students. I am thankful to Bishop Fabre, Superintendent Troxclair, and the committee for choosing me to be the next president of Vanderbilt Catholic. And lastly, I am thankful to you, our parents and students, for the incredible support I have received since joining this community. Vanderbilt is truly a special place.

If you have any questions/ concerns about our plan to close out the school year or about our plans for the future, please don't hesitate to email me.

Terriers Together!

Jeremy Gueldner, Principal
Vanderbilt Catholic