

3/15/2020 – 1:57 pm

Governor Tim Walz reiterated this morning that, “We are in unprecedented times.” As such, we are determining how we will navigate this period of time as quickly as we can. I just heard at 12:00 noon today that Waconia Public Schools are closing immediately.

St. Joseph Catholic STEM School will be closed from Monday, March 16th through Friday, March 27th. The school building will be open Tuesday during the day. We would like families to come into the school between 8:00 and 4:00 pm on Tuesday to pick up any personal belongings as well as instructional supplies for distance learning. If you are unable to make these times work, please contact your child’s teacher **after that window of time has elapsed** in order to work out a time to pick up your child’s belongings. We will need some time tomorrow to process the things we want students to take home, so please do not come in prior to Tuesday.


Although it will take a while to get a system worked out, we do hope to have some learning taking place at some point this week. Please know that our school’s decision to close immediately is based on the fact that the safety and well-being of our students and staff is our top priority.

We will be giving thoughtful planning to our distance learning plan, offering careful considerations for all students. The situation continues to change rapidly, please bear with us as we develop plans for the potential of providing distance learning.

#### Key Points:

1. Students will be out of school on Monday, March 16th through Friday, March 27<sup>th</sup>
2. Instruction will resume as soon as we are able to put plans together, perhaps this week. It is likely that the instruction will be distance learning.
3. Details of the distance learning plan will be distributed when they are finalized
4. All student activities, practices, and Saints Inc. are suspended at this time.
5. Mrs. Aimee Sieve will be communicating LADC plans to Preschool families.



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6. Kids' Company in Waconia will be open for emergency workers, including: health care staff; first responders; firefighters; correctional services; essential court personnel; MN State Veterans Home staff; state and local public health agency employees; MNsure Navigators; County financial/eligibility workers; county case managers; or any county staff in emergency management or health and human services. If this applies to you and your family, please contact the school office so that we can connect you with Kids' Company.

As we continue to learn and implement the recommendations from the MN Dept. of Health, please keep in mind social distancing regulations.

Here is a [link to the Governor's Executive Order](#).

Many blessings to you and I pray that we will navigate these waters swiftly and smoothly.

Bruce Richards  
Principal

