

## Monroe Catholic Elementary Schools

Main Office:  
151 N. Monroe St.  
Monroe, MI 48162  
www.mcesmonroe.com  
734-241-6335

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November 17, 2020

Dear MCES Families,

In the last few days, MCES has seen a steep rise in the number of COVID-19 cases and close contacts within our community. In consultation with the Archdiocese of Detroit Office of Catholic Schools and our pastors, **we will be putting a pause on our in-person learning through December 8th**. This decision was not made lightly and takes into consideration the health & safety of our students, faculty and staff, as well as the acknowledgement of the added burden this places on our teachers.

Preschool through 8th Grade Students will attend in-person on Wednesday, November 18th and MCES will be closed Thursday, November 19th, allowing our teachers to prepare for virtual instruction. We will move to a virtual learning model for our Young 5s through 8th grade students starting Friday, November 20th. Latchkey for school-aged children will be available Thursday, November 19th only. Please let Mrs. Reynolds know if you would like to utilize these services.

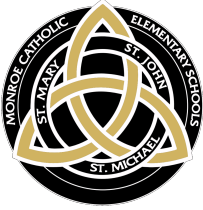
Preschool, preschool latchkey and childcare will remain open for the time being. We will monitor the situation and if anything changes, we will communicate with you.

We cannot stress enough that our ability to return to in-person learning after December 8th, is not only dependent on the number of positive cases/close contacts, but also, and critically, our school community's commitment to following the COVID-19 health and safety protocols while we are apart. Please continue to practice good hygiene, wear your mask properly, practice social distancing and limit gatherings.

We believe in using data to support our decisions. Nearly 25% of our student body and 14% of our staff are either a close contact, positive, or participating in distance learning. As a result, teachers are having to devote an unfeasible amount of time to planning both in-person and virtual learning. **Unfortunately, this is not sustainable**, as we know our teachers and staff are our most valuable resource. Our sincere hope is that the number of cases/close contacts decreases substantially during this time frame.

Information regarding the format of our Virtual Learning can be found at the following link, as originally published with our Phase 4 Plan in August: [Click here](#). This plan was developed with the understanding that we needed to increase the rigors of what was presented in the spring. Also included is the middle school (grades 6-8) schedule.

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Most materials will be sent home tomorrow. Pick up of remaining learning items will take place Friday, November 20th from 8:15-3:15 at each campus. Each week, teachers will let parents know if there is a packet to collect at the school.

In addition, our school offices will remain open under their normal operating hours, should you need assistance.

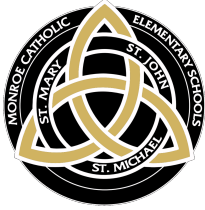
Students in our Young 5s through 1st grades may borrow a tablet from MCES and our 2nd-8th grade may borrow a Chromebook. Please fill out [this form](#) to request a tablet/Chromebook. Both Chromebooks and Tablets are first come, first served. Please consider using your own devices if you have them available.

During these stressful times, we turn to prayer. The Thomas Merton prayer is particularly timely:

My Lord God,  
I have no idea where I am going.  
I do not see the road ahead of me.  
I cannot know for certain where it will end.  
Nor do I really know myself,  
And the fact that I think I am following your will  
Does not mean that I am actually doing so.  
But I believe that the desire to please does in fact please you.  
And I hope I have that desire in all that I am doing.  
I hope that I will never do anything apart from that desire.  
And I know that If I do this you will lead me by the right road,  
Though I may know nothing about it.  
Therefore will I trust you always though  
I may seem to be lost and in the shadow of death.  
I will not fear, for you are ever with me,  
And you will never leave me to face my perils alone.

With our trust in God and our continued commitment to each other, we are confident that God will lead us all in the right direction. Please be compassionate and safe as we navigate this unknown.

We sincerely thank you for your partnership with MCES and pray that you stay as healthy as possible. This pandemic is truly not easy on anyone, but we can rise to the challenge, together.



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God Bless,

Kyle Kubik  
MCES Executive Principal