

Father Andrew White S.J. School

2012 National Blue Ribbon School

P.O. Box 1756

Leonardtown, Maryland 20650

April 2, 2020

Dear Father Andrew White School family,

As principal of Father Andrew White, SJ School (FAW) I feel it is critically important to keep our community informed. I am writing to you today to share the latest impact that the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic is having on our school and parishes.

The COVID-19 pandemic has delivered a financial blow to parishes all over the world, including our beloved parishes and school. Father Beaubien and I are committed to providing your children a faith-based education through distance learning, as we together face these difficult times. We are so proud of our teachers. They have gone above and beyond to ensure your children continue their learning. We are also very grateful for the overall support we have received from FAW families. Your commitment to continue to pay tuition has allowed us to keep our obligation to pay our teachers.

As you know, tuition does not cover the full cost to educate your child(ren). We are exploring all available avenues to cover the tuition gap, but we are greatly impacted by a loss of revenue from the necessary cancellation of many of the activities that help to supplement tuition (ex. fundraisers, Mass donations). Additionally, some of our other programs, such as before- and aftercare, are not operating and, therefore, not generating revenue. These circumstances have led us to make some very difficult but necessary decisions to protect the viability of our school.

Beginning this week, we have to furlough certain school employees. Furlough is a “pause” in employment, whereby an employee (full- or part-time) is asked not to work, either all or part of their normal schedule. It is hoped that this will be a temporary condition. Pay would cease from the day of furlough. However, our furloughed employees will be entitled to seek unemployment compensation made available through the emergency federal financial assistance program that is part of the recently-enacted CARES Act. Health, dental & vision (HDV) benefits would continue under our existing plans. Please keep our cherished employees in your prayers. We pray that sooner, rather than later, we will rejoice together as a community as all our employees return to work.

If you have the means and would like to contribute to our school, to support families whose tuition payments have been impacted by loss of employment due to COVID-19, please contact me. Please also remember to continue to support the parish offertory to the extent you are able, as our school relies upon the generous support we receive from our parishes.

Thank you for your consideration and your continued prayers during this unprecedented and challenging time.

Sincerely in Christ,
Heather M. Francisco