

Unknown territory

Uncharted waters

Unprecedented time

On how many occasions over the past 44 days have you heard one of those phrases used to describe living during a global pandemic? Too many to count. But what exactly has been unknown, uncharted and unprecedented? Teachers delivering instruction virtually?? For sure. Students attending class via video conferences?? Absolutely. Parents striving to maintain balance between their own work and that of their child?? Without a doubt. The list could go on and on and on.

But I would argue that there are other phrases that are an even better representation of the Father Andrew White School family experience over the past weeks

Unbroken spirit

Unrelenting determination

Unwavering faith

Together while apart we have faced adversity with the fighting Crusader spirit. Together while apart we have tackled obstacles with perseverance and determination. Together while apart we have risen to new challenges by lifting one another in prayer and depending on our faith as disciples of Jesus Christ.

Although the school campus remains closed, as archdiocesan schools begin Phase 3 of distance learning on Monday, the primary focus at Father Andrew White - teaching, learning, and partnering with parents - will not change. The level of rigor and the academic expectations we have maintained during the course of distance learning will continue. Students and parents who need additional support can be assured that teachers are ready and willing to do whatever it takes to help their students succeed.

In order to make the best use of remaining instructional time, teachers have identified critical standards and are planning the lessons and assessments that can be delivered in the virtual environment to determine the extent to which students have met those standards. Teachers in PK-3rd grade will assess student learning and report progress at the end of the 4th quarter using their standards-based scale. For students in grades 4-8, reported progress at the conclusion of the 4th quarter will take into consideration both participation in the distance learning environment and graded assignments and assessments. No student will be penalized due to accessibility issues that prevented the student from completing assignments or for late submission of work. Final yearly averages will be calculated by the teacher based on the first three quarters and the quality of work during the 4th quarter.

We have been so proud of the efforts of our students to adapt to at-home learning and to maintain high levels of achievement. We are beyond grateful for the sacrifices parents have made to support their children's academic growth and for the many thoughtful and motivating expressions of encouragement shared with teachers. Teachers whose dedication and collaboration have astounded me and have made me so very proud. I am supremely confident that the days ahead will yield an even greater abundance of blessings as we work together while apart.

You are in my prayers as I anticipate the day when we can once again gather at Father Andrew White School. Until then, stay safe and rejoice in the Risen Lord during this Easter season. Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!