



March 14, 2020

Dear St. Bernard's Students,

Greetings in Christ!

As the administration and staff at St. Bernard's continue to monitor developments related to the Coronavirus (COVID-19), I have determined that the precautionary measures announced in my last letter are no longer sufficient for the anticipatory protection of our students, their families, and their wider communities. While our School always lays stress upon the advantages of in-person education, the present situation requires that we take the step to deliver all of our courses via alternative delivery methods already well-known to you.

*As of Monday, March 16<sup>th</sup>:*

- ❖ For two weeks - 3/16 to 3/27 - all courses at all campuses will be delivered exclusively through Zoom videoconferencing and our Canvas learning management system. No in-person class sessions will be held.
- ❖ At the end of these two weeks, the determination will be made concerning whether the remainder of the semester will be delivered through these alternative methods, or whether in-person class sessions will resume.

Our investment in Zoom videoconferencing technology and in our Canvas learning management system places us in an exceptional position to make this transition with minimal disruption. For students already joining classes from home via Zoom videoconferencing, no change will be required. For those who have been attending courses in person, further information about employing Zoom will be sent to you shortly. Using Zoom to join class from home requires minimal technical hardware and expertise; a home computer or a laptop is required, and a webcam is preferred but not essential.<sup>1</sup>

My team stands ready to assist you with any questions or concerns you may have, technical or otherwise. Do not hesitate to reach out to Corinne DerCola ([Corinne.DerCola@stbernards.edu](mailto:Corinne.DerCola@stbernards.edu)), St. Bernard's Office Manager, who will be able to direct your questions or concerns to the appropriate office. Thank you for your patience during this trying time. Once again, general guidelines to prevent the spread of COVID-

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<sup>1</sup> If a computer or laptop is not available to you, it is also possible to join via phone.

19 have been distributed through the various dioceses we serve and are helpfully articulated by the *Centers for Disease Control and Prevention* [here](#).

May we take this time to pray to the Lord, our harbor and our true hope, and may we remember all those who are most vulnerable: those with preexisting conditions, the elderly, the poor, and those who have no one to care for them. Be assured of our prayers for you and yours during this time.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Stephen Loughlin".

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