



SAINT MARY'S COLLEGE HIGH SCHOOL  
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March 12, 2020

Dear Parents & Students,

Thank you for your patience and support these past ten days. We have been careful about our planning and adjustments to the current COVID-19 developments; final exams, basketball playoffs, and Enrichment Week are a challenge to juggle, even when life is nice and dull.

We have been lucky to have had a break from regular classes this week. During EWeek we haven't had to worry about students congregating in close proximity to each other, giving us time to decide what is in the best interests of our students. Missing school for extended periods is not in the best interests of students. But everyone's health and safety is important as well, obviously. We have been working on how to serve both interests optimally. Our first plan to do so we explained in our March 7 email regarding the start of the Spring Term. In that email we noted that the plan may change.

Given recent events, that plan needs to change.

Saint Mary's will not begin classes as usual on Tuesday, March 17. Instead, we are moving the start of the Spring term to **Monday, March 23**. The faculty and staff will use March 17-20 to prepare more fully for teaching in these interesting times. It is possible that circumstances around the COVID-19 pandemic might require us to begin classes March 23 in a distance-learning format, with students staying home another week, taking classes in real-time online. We will not know for certain if that will be the case, but we will let you know by Wednesday, March 18, at the latest, with specific class schedules for the students to follow.

Unfortunately, the CIF State Basketball Championships were cancelled this morning, denying both our girls and our boys the chance to play for the State Titles. Those teams fought hard this season to earn NorCal Championships. We'll claim two State co-championships as well, at least. They deserve it.

We have already rescheduled the Spring Musical to late April. We are still in discussion regarding practices for interscholastic athletics. We will follow up in a separate email at the end of this week regarding Spring sports practices.

I am writing this email from the Nile River in Southern Egypt, where twenty-nine students and two teaching colleagues—all of them among the best I've worked with—have made an uncertain week into a glorious experience. Living with uncertainty is an important life skill, and these young people have mastered it with calm and resilience.

Again, the Spring Term will begin on Monday, March 23, at 9:00 am. Students do not have school next week.

We'll be in touch.

Pete Imperial  
Principal