

Dear Holy Ghost Families,

As of 2:00pm this afternoon, Sunday, March 15, 2020, Niagara County has declared a state of emergency. The Niagara County school superintendents have decided that schools will be closed until further notice. Therefore, Holy Ghost Lutheran School will be closed beginning tomorrow and until further notice. We will keep you informed as we are updated by Niagara County Department of Health and Niagara County School Superintendents. At this time there are no confirmed cases in Niagara County. This has been decided as a preventative measure in spreading COVID-19.

I realize that this situation also brings a new challenge to many of your homes, especially to those of you who are planning to work remotely with new expectations from your employers, or those struggling to find child care. There are surely unfortunate circumstances that come with these preventative measures. Please also recognize the blessings that might be hidden within these circumstances, like the gift of time given to families to enjoy each other's company.

While students will be home from school, I recommend you share your daily expectations with your child. Be consistent. Children respond well to clearly stated, simple directions. Plan your day and be sure to set aside time for student work, but also plan time to play a game, work on a puzzle, watch a movie, or take a walk outdoors on these sunny days, etc. Our teachers will be sharing guidance for learning to continue via email. More information about school guided procedures will be sent out in an email tomorrow.

As previously disclosed, our teachers have been structuring Distant Learning Packets for students in grades K-8. These packets were planned to be sent home tomorrow. Parents will be able to pick up these packets between noon and 4:00p tomorrow, Monday, March 16th, from our school office.

Your children are used to the structure of a school setting, scheduled times to complete purposeful tasks. Please consider a setting in the home where your child can manage academic time: reading, writing, math. The teachers will share a daily email with school expectations. If your child is struggling to manage these expectations, please contact your child's teacher. Our hope is to offer an opportunity for your child to continue to grow academically. It will take structure and discipline and some tasks may require assistance. Teachers will be available via email and through correspondence on the Remind app between the hours of 8:30 AM and 3 PM. We are so grateful to work with families who want what is best for their child/children in order to be successful.

Don't hesitate to reach out to your Holy Ghost family if you need assistance in any way. Please pray about this contemporary issue. Pray for each other, our staff, our community, our state, and nation. The students and families of Holy Ghost will remain in the prayers of our school staff during this period of school closure.

1 Peter 4:6-7 "Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus."

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God's blessings,

Kevin Gundell
Principal
Holy Ghost Lutheran School
6630 Luther St., Wheatfield, NY 14304

731-3030 www.holyghostlcms.org

Faith works through love...Galatians 5:6