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Office of the Principal

March 12, 2020

Dear Parents,

Following the emergence of Coronavirus (COVID19), we are working diligently to keep our school community as safe as possible. Following recently issued guidance from the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), the Louisiana Department of Health and other local health authorities; we are taking recommended steps for schools that do not have COVID-19 identified in their communities.

We are consulting with local healthcare professionals in regard to coronavirus and infectious disease prevention. Medical experts and infectious disease professionals have emphasized that maintaining good hygiene and staying away from school or work when ill are critical to keeping our community as healthy as possible. As a result, we are reinforcing the following practices:

- emphasize actions such as staying home when sick;
- appropriately covering coughs and sneezes;
- cleaning frequently touched surfaces; and
- washing hands often.

Like so many of you, we have spent the last several days and weeks learning about the coronavirus (COVID-19) and how it is impacting our world. For SMA, that means understanding how it affects our students, employees, and communities, and then making the necessary adjustments to our school and operations.

We have one simple objective that guides us: keeping our students and our faculty safe. This has been at the center of our conversations every day. With that in mind, we have made several moves in our school in response to the threat of the coronavirus.

We have hired ladies on both the elementary and high school sides specifically to clean and sanitize the cafeterias and all bathrooms. We will also add hand sanitizer at the front entrance desk. Students are encouraged to bring Sanitizing wipes to keep their desk and supplies continuously clean.

We are closely following the [Centers for Disease Control's \(CDC\)](#) guidelines and recommendations on the steps we can take to help prevent the spread of the virus. We have shared specific instructions with our students and staff on the importance of washing their hands and staying home if they feel sick or are returning from an area of the world identified as posing a coronavirus-related risk.

We will continue to monitor this situation and act in accordance with local officials. Please join me in praying for the safety of our school community, and for those throughout the world whose lives have been affected by this virus.

If you have additional questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to reach out to me. As always, thank you for your continued partnership.

Yours in Christ,

Sr. Jennie Jones, S.S.F.
Principal