Catholic High School Foundation/Alumni Association
6300 Father Tribou Street • Little Rock, AR 72205 • (501) 664-4625 • lrchs.org

Dear Alumni and Supporters,

First of all, we hope you and your family are healthy. We know that many of you own or work for businesses that have been affected. These are challenging times for the world, and we want you to know that we are in this together. We will weather this storm together.

We wanted to give you an update on the steps Catholic High is undertaking to deal with the COVID-19 outbreak:

Four weeks ago, the CDC announced that COVID-19 would likely cause disruptions to schools and businesses. At that moment, we mandated that 100% of our courses be readied for online delivery with a deadline of two weeks. We were right on time.

On March 12, the Governor of Arkansas closed schools in Pulaski County. We immediately "flipped the switch" and went to our online platform. We can tell you that our teachers have responded the exact way we expected: with innovation, compassion, and a pedal-to-the-metal attitude. We can assure you, though this is new to us, we are all in. One former parent recently sent us a message that summarizes what we've accomplished: "Catholic High was the last to embrace technology but the first to get it right."

Over the course of the last week, we have collaborated with Little Rock School District Superintendent Mike Poore, City of Little Rock Chief of Education Officer Jay Barth and the heads of school with each and every private school in Central Arkansas. We are working together to take care of the kids of Central Arkansas and make sure they come out of this prepared for the future.

At Catholic High, we've live-streamed Mass every day at 7:15 a.m., offered drive-thru confessions and beamed morning announcements into the homes of our boys. Our goal is to keep the connection to Catholic High strong by keeping the day as normal as possible.

To that end, we've instituted **The Catholic High Promise**. The Catholic High Promise is described as follows: *Regardless of circumstances, we promise to deliver a full education, one that is imbued with stellar academics, a deep and lasting spirituality, a physical component that combines safety with activity, and we will embrace the Catholic High experience fully and completely. The culture and environment of our school is its hallmark, and we vow it will not lag in any sense. In essence, we will deliver an education uniquely crafted to help your son become a whole man. We promise.*

We have kept our maintenance staff active by sanitizing each surface in the school. We have been working with the City of Little Rock to utilize our kitchen and kitchen staff as a potential food distribution center. We have a skeleton crew at school every day including the two of us, Fr. Friend, Brother Richard and Matt Dempsey.

We have mailed out acceptance letters to the Class of 2024 though our orientation meeting is postponed. The Rocket 5K, Golf tournament, and Junktique are all postponed, as well.

We have stayed in daily contact with our students and their parents and assured them we are moving forward with clarity and speed as we will stay closed through April 17, following Gov. Hutchinson's orders.

But, back to the teachers. It's because of your support of the Catholic High School Foundation/Alumni Association that we are able to have the best and brightest in our classrooms. Our teachers have performed incredibly above and beyond the call of duty. To a person, they understand that they are the spearpoint of the Catholic High mission, now more than ever. They understand that the education of the boys and the very survival of the school is in their hands. They understand that what they're doing right this instant sets the course for our future. And man, have they responded. We could list here the hundreds of things they are doing right now, the large and small, the general and personal, the forceful and the compassionate acts they are employing.

Our teachers are all on board. They are filling our sails and leading this great ship to new horizons. While the world is overwrought with superlatives, allow me just one: They are the best people we've ever been around, and that fact is wonderfully obvious right now.

Thank you for supporting us so that we can continue to have the best faculty in the state. The investments you have made are coming to fruition when our alma mater needs it the most. About 20 years ago, Fr. Tribou summed up the school's challenges and paraphrased Faulkner in describing our approach to the challenges. We echo him now: "We will not just survive, by God we will prevail."

Although we have entered a "new normal," this difficult time will not endure. But the spirit of this place, the Catholic High Promise and the people of Catholic High will.

Thank you. A thousand times, thank you.



