Dear Fordham Prep Community,

I am writing to you with additional updates on our response to the COVID-19 virus.

As you recall, on Wednesday, February 26, we asked the eight students and two adults who returned from our Global Education exchange program in Milan, Italy on Friday, February 21 to study or work from home. After consulting with medical experts, we made this request in an abundance of caution in order to prevent any possible spread of the virus. I am very grateful to these students and their families and our staff members for their extraordinary flexibility, understanding, and cooperation with our request. I am also grateful to several of our faculty who led distance learning exercises and activities for these students.

Please note that the self-isolation period of 14 days is intentional and deliberately cautious, as public health experts agree that the incubation period of the virus is just over 12 days. More than two weeks have now passed since this group returned from Italy, and I am pleased to share with you that they are all in good health and show no symptoms of the virus. We look forward to welcoming them back to Fordham Prep on Monday.

With regard to new developments in our response to the COVID-19 virus, our administration continues to consult closely with public health experts and communicate regularly with leaders at Jesuit and independent schools across the country in order to learn and evaluate best practices that we may adopt.

Fordham Prep administrators are planning to address all possible contingencies, including by developing a comprehensive distance learning protocol that we will be ready to implement for all students and faculty, in the event of a school closure. This protocol will leverage our existing educational technology and platforms already accessible to our students and faculty so that instruction and learning may continue remotely, if necessary. Next week I will communicate details to our families.

Our primary concern is, and always will be, the safety and health of every member of the Fordham Prep community. Please be assured by our continued efforts as detailed in our recent newsletter, which can be found online: English text / Spanish text.

Thank you for your attention to this matter, and have a nice weekend.

Best Regards,

Joseph A. Petriello, PhD '98
Principal