Dear Students and Parents/Guardians,

Thank you for your patience and understanding as we prepare to transition to distance learning this week. I am deeply grateful for the trust you place in us every day, and especially during these uncertain and challenging times.

As of this date no confirmed or suspected cases of COVID-19 have been reported in the Fordham Prep and Fordham University communities. As you recall, we decided to suspend in-person classes until further notice as a consequence of our commitment to care for our community as well as to prevent community spread that may affect the most vulnerable members of our families and society. While we will notify you on Friday, March 20 regarding plans for next week, it seems highly unlikely that we will resume in-person classes for several weeks. We will continue to update our COVID-19 webpage as needed.

Attached, please find Distance Learning Plan: Guidelines for Students and Parents/Guardians (DLP). This document is a comprehensive handbook which includes standards and expectations for our students’ academic learning from home during this time. Please read this document carefully and review it together as a family.

Our faculty will use tomorrow (Monday, March 16) to plan, and by 3:30 p.m. will post the first weekly assignments for their respective classes on Schoology. Students will begin their distance learning program on the morning of Tuesday, March 17. They are expected to complete their assigned coursework just as they would while attending classes on campus. Their learning will transpire through independent work following established deadlines (asynchronous) and through daily, real-time check-ins with select teachers according to our weekly distance learning schedule (synchronous).

We are committed to open communication and listening to your feedback, especially in the early days of this significant transition to distance learning.

We kindly ask you to first consult the DLP before reaching out to us or your son’s teacher(s) with questions, as we have attempted to anticipate them in that document. If you still need assistance or support with distance learning generally, please contact me, Dennis Ahern, or Chad Broussard. However, if your question or concern is related to your son’s specific experience in individual coursework, please contact his teacher directly. Finally, if your question relates to technology, please contact Jeff Butkowski, our Director of Technical Operations. Please note that my colleagues and I will be available for your questions and feedback beginning tomorrow during 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., and on weekdays which follow.

As we move into this new mode of teaching and learning, we need to be flexible and patient with this unique situation and with one another. Our faculty is committed to engaging our students in high-quality learning experiences through our DLP. There will be opportunities and challenges along the way, but the greatest strength of Fordham Prep is our mission of faith, scholarship, and service, and the sense of community which pervades it.

Thank you for your cooperation and understanding during this unprecedented time. Since 1841, Fordham Prep’s mission and our community have endured times of joy and sorrow, hope and anxiety, suffering and peace. We will continue to stay true to this mission while best caring for the health, safety, and well-being of our community and the communities we serve.
God bless you and your families, and be assured of my constant prayers for all of us.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

Joseph A. Petriello, PhD '98
Principal