

COVID-19 UPDATE

March 13, 2020

Saint Ursula Community,

Due to Governor DeWine's Executive Order to cancel on-campus classes from March 16 through April 3, SUA will transition from face-to-face instruction to distant learning.

Ohio Department of Education (ODE) update

The U.S. Department of Education issued [this release](#) today regarding K-12 flexibilities, student privacy, and educating students with disabilities during school closures caused by the coronavirus pandemic.

The Ohio Department of Education is beginning to provide clarity on the minimum hour requirement, accountability issues, testing, special education requirements, ensuring students can get meals and many others. SUA will work in accordance with the state and national mandates.

Distance Learning at SUA

- Students will not attend classes on the SUA campus **beginning** Monday, March 16. Students will participate in distance learning starting Thursday, March 19. Distance learning will remain in effect **through** Friday, April 3.
- March 19 - April 3 are **REQUIRED** instructional days. Students are expected to be present online based on each teacher's instructions. Details are listed below.
- Faculty and staff will use Tuesday, March 17 and Wednesday, March 18 to finalize grades and prepare for distance learning.

Distance Learning is a method of instruction in which lessons are conducted remotely over the Internet. More interactive than simple online learning, Distance Learning gives the students an effective way to interact with their teachers and their classmates from home. The Saint Ursula faculty will create an interactive environment through these educational technologies.

Distance Learning Structure and Expectations

Starting March 19th, each day is REQUIRED and will begin at 10 a.m. and end at 3 p.m.

[READ MANDATORY COURSE INFORMATION HERE](#)

From 10 a.m.-12 p.m., students will attend **Course Check-ins**. **Attendance will be taken for Course Check-ins.**

From 12 - 3 p.m., Independent Course Work

School Nurse

If you anticipate a need to pick up your daughter's medication, please contact Sara Utecht to arrange a pick-up time. sutecht@saintursula.org or (513) 961-3410 ext. 160.

Educational Services

Educational Services teachers will make every effort to provide online instructional support to students over the coming weeks. The ES Department will be communicating their instructional strategies directly to the students and families.

Counseling

Our school counseling team is committed to the continual care and support of each of our students. School counselors will be in communication with students, families, and staff members via email. Please do not hesitate to contact your daughter's counselor should you wish to connect with her.

State Assessments and AP Exams

School counselors and administrators are in conversation with the College Board and the Ohio Department of Education regarding the IOWA, PreACT, ACT, and AP assessments. We will keep you updated as information becomes available.

Sports, Extracurricular Activities, After-School Programs

Sports, extracurricular activities, after-school clubs, and programs are canceled through April 3, 2020. Additionally, Father-Daughter Dance and Flutter into Spring events are CANCELED.

On-site Staffing

SUA will ensure continuity of services despite the campus being closed to the girls. Dr. Thomas or Mrs. Kramer will be on campus during the mandated distance learning period. Members of the business office will be on-site, along with technology and facilities. If you have needs during this time, please call Mrs. Kramer's Administrative Assistant, Mrs. Patrice Eby, at 961-3410 ext. 132. We are here to help.

Decision-making Protocol

We continue to monitor and follow the guidance from the Hamilton County Board of Health, Ohio Department of Health, and the Centers for Disease Control. We are also part of a safety and security consortium and are working closely with the consortium leader in a manner that directs and supports our decisions.

Cleaning and Disinfection

Our custodial crew is deep cleaning and disinfecting our buildings daily. Extra attention is paid to touchpoints, high traffic areas, and restrooms.

Keeping the SUA Community Healthy

We are asking that we all continue to practice preventive measures. These preventive measures are the best defense to minimize the spread of the novel coronavirus:

- Avoid close contact with people who are sick
- Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue, then throw the tissue in the trash
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces
- Stay home when sick, except to get medical care
- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds.
- Avoid hugging/touching hands
 - A non-touch wave/nod or bow will work instead
 - Or "Elbow bump"
 - Or tapping each other's feet

Coronavirus Resources

SUA will continue to upload updates on a special section of our website dedicated to COVID-19 information. You can find the Coronavirus Planning and Information section on the homepage (www.saintursula.org) or under the Family Resources section of the site. Below are the frequently accessed resources:

[Ohio Department of Health](#)

[CDC](#)

[Help Teens Manage Anxiety About the Coronavirus](#)

Saint Ursula Academy recognizes that these are challenging times that require all of us to take new and creative approaches to learning. We acknowledge that our students may have additional home and family responsibilities over the next few weeks. As such, we want to be sure that students are carefully balancing school responsibilities with good self-care (i.e. taking a walk outside, stepping away from social media, etc.).

Watch for Updates

We will continue to send our weekly Parent Bulletin on Fridays at 3:00 PM. COVID-19 updates will be sent as needed. Given the rapid pace of change, and the critical sensitive nature of the updates, please take time each day to check your email in the event we need to communicate COVID-19 updates and essential information.

Saint Ursula Academy is blessed with students committed to faith, integrity, and courage. Now more than ever, we are challenged to live the mission of Saint Ursula to *build a better world*. Please take steps to ensure your own health, the health of those close to you, and your larger community. During this time, please join us in prayer for the world and our community.

Dr. Thomas

