

Dear Parents and Guardians,

The well-being of all our families is our top priority, and we want to make certain you have clarity as we plan for the close of the school year. **This message contains important information regarding the school calendar, grading/final exams, and the latest updates on graduations and celebrations**, through the close of the academic year on June 5, 2020. Although lengthy, we felt it important to be as comprehensive as possible for your planning purposes.

Participation in social, community, and spiritual traditions and experiences are often the most enriching, formative, and memorable. Let me acknowledge that there are many unknowns and even more unanswered questions regarding end of year celebrations, signature events, and of course, graduation. The Leadership Team has been in numerous meetings and had multiple communications with the Office of Schools and fellow Archdiocesan schools, to gain clarity as a result of the recent information released by Archbishop ListECKI addressing the Catholic Comeback Plan and Graduation Guidelines, which includes a directive that **we are to hold no in-person graduation ceremonies, events, or activities until at least July 1, 2020**. On behalf of SMSA, I am grateful for the opportunity to work in collaboration with Father Ryan and Holy Family to gain clarification on these new regulations released by the Archbishop. He has been a great resource and offers the below message to all families on behalf of the Archdiocese of Milwaukee.

To the Faithful of the SMSA Community,

I wanted to first take this opportunity to thank you for your continued support, prayers and encouragement through this most difficult time. There is a light at the end of this dark tunnel!

Secondly, I am pleased to have been offered this platform to be able to address the question of end-of-year celebrations, such as graduation, in light of the recent Catholic Comeback plan revealed by Archbishop ListECKI. His plan, which can be [read here](#), outlines a set of guiding principles for parishes to follow as we return to public life. Part of this plan allows Masses to return the weekend of May 31st, however, there will be a number of restrictions and Mass will look different than what it was just a few months ago.

You may be wondering how this impacts graduation and other celebrations typically held at Holy Family, scheduled for after May 31st. Archbishop ListECKI has a separate Graduation Message, which can be [read here](#), which states that no in-person, school sponsored events of any kind are to be held by Catholic schools until at least July 1, 2020. Leadership at SMSA, as you can imagine, is very eager to host an in-person celebration for graduation and immediately reached out to me to clarify, as this message seems contradictory to the Archbishop's message allowing Mass to resume May 31st.

To comply with Governor Evers orders and use caution to protect the health of our Catholic community, an in-person graduation of any kind will not be allowed until at least July 1, 2020 or later. This order from the Archbishop also restricts SMSA from

hosting any in-person events, athletics or activities until at least July 1, 2020. We know this decision is extremely disappointing and while it is natural to be upset, we ask that you continue to trust that the Catholic Church has the parishioners wellbeing at the forefront when making decisions.

The Holy Family staff and I will continue to stay in close communication with SMSA Leadership to help clarify as more details become available. We are here as a resource and are happy to answer any questions you may have.

Thank you again for your continued prayers and support as we continue to serve each other and worship in the name of Jesus Christ.

Sincerely,



*Fr. Ryan J Pruess, Pastor
Holy Family Catholic Community, Our Risen Savior, Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary*

Provided below are additional updates, per grade level, that you may find beneficial for you, your family, and your planning as the end of the school year quickly approaches:

High School Updates (Grades 9-12)

- [High School End of the Year Calendar](#)
- [High School Grading Update](#)
- [Class of 2020 Events](#)

Elementary School Updates (Grades PreK-8)

- [Elementary School End of the Year Calendar](#)
- [Elementary School Grading Update](#)
- [8th Grade Graduation](#)

All-System Updates/Reminders (Grades PreK-12)

- *Addressing Financial Needs of Families* | In addition to providing easy access to tuition assistance for eligible families, we are working to match families with charitable partner organizations to provide emergency assistance for food, rent, or other hardships. See our new online [Special Circumstances Form](#) for details.
- *2020-2021 Academic Year Calendar* | We have finalized our [20-21 academic calendar](#) and are republishing it here. At this time, we anticipate resuming face-to-face classes in August, 2020; however, due to the CDC prediction of a potential return of COVID-19, we ask that families be prepared for flexibility.
- *Virtual Learning Guide (VLG)* | Virtual learning continues online. Our one-stop academic learning and support services guide for parents and students can be found here [VLG](#) We continue to review feedback from our recent student, parent, and teacher surveys to identify ways we can improve remote learning.

Please know that the aforementioned changes to our most cherished traditions and events weigh heavy on all our minds. We have all been affected by this pandemic, and our 2020 graduates more so than most. And still, we must not forget that our current reality is temporary. Our sincere hope is to provide opportunities for celebration, planned events, athletics, and gatherings after the July 1 directive provided by the Archbishop, and after the CDC eases restrictions for large group gatherings. Again, I thank you for the continued patience and grace you have demonstrated throughout this ever-changing landscape.

Personally, I have been inspired and overwhelmed by the determination, creativity, and perseverance demonstrated by our students, parents/guardians, and educators under these unique circumstances. One does not have to look hard to identify evidence of how we have remained faithful to our mission and core values as it is demonstrated by living The Ledger Way as a Catholic school community each and every day.

In your service,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Stacey Akey". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Stacey Akey, President