



Subject: Siena Virtual Learning Update: 12.3.20

In this letter:

- *Virtual learning updates*
- *Meal distribution changes*
- *COVID reminder*

Hello Siena families,

First of all, I'd like to thank all of you for your support and flexibility as we have shifted to virtual learning in the past week. I've heard so many positive stories from principals and are encouraged by the level of student engagement across all of our schools. Great job, everyone!

The City of Racine Public Health Department's order for schools to be virtual-only remains in effect at the current time. We continue to wait for clarification on the Wisconsin Supreme Court's stance on the City of Racine/City of Racine Public Health Department's ability to close all schools to in-person learning. Unless the order changes, these five schools -- John Paul II Academy, Our Lady of Grace Academy, St. Catherine's High School, St. Joseph Catholic School, and St. Lucy Catholic School -- will be required to be virtual through January 15. We've been asked, "What if a decision is made in the next week to reverse the order?" In order to provide appropriate planning time and care for the safety of everyone, we have decided that the five schools impacted by the Safer Racine closure ordinance will remain virtual-only next week regardless of any potential changes to the order.

Siena will continue to monitor health conditions and follow the law. I thought it would be helpful to emphasize the following:

1. St. Rita will remain open for in-person teaching/learning as they are not under the jurisdiction of the City of Racine Public Health Department.
2. If any changes are made to amend the current health department order, we will give families and schools a minimum of two business days to switch back to in-person. Again, any decisions about returning to in-person teaching/learning will be addressed as conditions change and data is available.
3. Food service changes: meals for anyone who needs them will still be available on Mondays and Wednesdays ONLY from 12-12:30 at St. Cat's, outside of Door 5. While we are limiting the days that food is distributed, families will receive multiple breakfasts and lunches during pickup.

Even though we are virtual, I ask that you continue to communicate with your principal if anyone in your household tests positive or is a close contact of someone who has COVID. This information is critical as we continue to monitor the health and safety of our schools.

While school buildings remain closed, please continue to reach out to principals and teachers with any questions that you have.

Blessings in Christ,

Brenda White

