

March, 27, 2020

Dear Nolan Catholic Community,

Faith, Academics, Student Life...all things continuing at Nolan Catholic High School. It is truly an honor to be a part of this community. The professionalism, creativity, collaboration, and adaptation of continuing the educational experience at Nolan Catholic has been remarkable to watch. Administrators and teachers began engaging students the day we returned from Spring Break without hesitation. Every employee is in full swing working to continue every item on the school calendar of events. Students have been incredible with establishing routines and schedules for balancing faith, academics, and student life while offering blogs, Vlogs (yes, Vlogs not video logs...Vlogs because we are Vikings), videos, live-streaming, and unique service opportunities. Our student organizations and leaders have been instrumental in keeping the Viking Spirit alive. As you will soon witness... we are hosting our first virtual pep-rally today! Yep, this is happening!

Our approach has been to continue with almost every activity that is on the school calendar. All directors and administrators meet weekly to collaborate and generate ideas while also including student engagement and input for efficient and smooth execution for each event. We are strategically engineering every upcoming event with three available plans depending on what the rules are at that time. For example, VSPYs has three plans: 1) Proceed as planned without restriction; 2) Offer an experience following minimum and maximum requirements of mandates for social distancing; and 3) Total virtual experience. We will opt for the plan that is allowed at the time of the event.

We have found such a tremendous sense of community, support, and love of our faith and family in ways we have never witnessed before. Our Nolan Catholic community has shared beautiful images of prayer and support for those who are suffering, just as they are also adapting to their own situations with such positivity, creativity, and strength. Academics are solid and students are engaged, but more importantly, families are embracing the partnership in educating our children into life-long learners and contributors filled with integrity and faith. As we have worked all year to enrich our students, we will continue to provide opportunities for our young minds and souls to find Truth, Goodness, and Beauty in all that they encounter.

We are so grateful for the opportunity to continue serving our students and families at Nolan Catholic. As there have not been any decisions made for Nolan Catholic for the remainder of the school year, we will continue to keep everyone posted on next steps for our plans for the remainder of the school year. Meanwhile, please join the journey through the interactive links with examples of our Viking engagement and explanations of how we are moving forward virtually one step at a time. Witness first-hand how our students, staff, and families are engaging in knowing, loving, and serving God.

Many blessings and prayers for good health,

Leah Rios

**Be sure to check out the resources below!**

Live streaming continues with previous and future plans for prayer including the Annunciation, Rosaries on Thursdays, Pope's Blessing, School-wide Masses, Virtual Adoration opportunities, and student-led prayers.

[LEARN MORE](#)



## FAITH LIFE



Administration has been working closely with teachers on training and support multiple times a week. Find out what else we have been doing to keep our students moving forward.

[LEARN MORE](#)

## ADMINISTRATION

Campus ministries continues to creatively work with local and outside partnerships to keep our students connected with service and giving.

[LEARN MORE](#)

## NOLAN GIVES BACK



Nolan Catholic High School has opted to continue learning with what has been familiar to our students using the planned curriculum for each content area.

[LEARN MORE](#)

## ACADEMICS & CONTINUED LEARNING

Our hope is to continue embracing the Viking spirit generated on our virtual campus! We are working to keep all previously scheduled items on the calendar as we continue to move forward virtually.

[LEARN MORE](#)

## STUDENT LIFE & ACTIVITIES



# FAITH LIFE

## STARTING OUR DAYS THE SAME WAY

### Morning Prayer and Announcements

Nolan Catholic administrators and students have been busy pre-recording morning announcements, birthday wishes, and prayers for all students and families to access on Facebook. It is important that we continue to share, pray, and stay connected with our student community and thought this would be a great way to continue this opportunity.

### Livestreaming Prayer Service & Mass



Live streaming continues with previous and future plans for prayer including the Annunciation, Rosaries on Thursdays, Pope's Blessing, School-wide Masses, Virtual Adoration opportunities, and student-led prayers.

### Stations of the Cross

A newsletter is a great way to keep the students, faculty, parents, and guardians abreast of what's happening in your school. It's an effective way of disseminating information and touching base with all the parties mentioned.



### Student Led Rosary

Students and staff are leading live Rosaries, small group virtual gatherings to pray the Rosary together at a certain time each day, and some groups are praying the Divine Mercy Chaplet. We will broadcast our Rosaries at least once each week.

### Prayers for our Community

We are still taking prayer requests during this time. Please send any names of family members who are sick or who have died to Sister Rosemary and Pat Pierret. We are currently working on a prayer request form that will be added to our website for our families to use. Sister Rosemary will prepare the prayers of the faithful for Mass and share them with Father Moon. Father Moon will offer all of our prayers during his Mass offering on Thursdays. Father is currently ministering to the nuns of Mount Carmel where Mass is being offered daily. I am sharing a wonderful video message from Father Moon where he addresses several things including the plenary indulgences referenced in Bishop Olson's recent letter. Thank you for your spiritual guidance and prayers, Father Moon!

### PRAYER REQUESTS

Please send prayer requests to [rstanton@nchstx.org](mailto:rstanton@nchstx.org) and [ppierret@nchstx.org](mailto:ppierret@nchstx.org)

# ADMINISTRATION

## Teacher training and support

Administration has been working closely with teachers through virtual platforms for meetings and increasing Professional Learning Community (PLC) meetings to twice a week rather than the regularly scheduled Wednesday meetings. Each department has virtual meetings with administrators to collaborate and generate creative ways to engage students with the current curriculum set for each content area of instruction. Each teacher brings their own approach with instruction to help keep learning familiar to students as they would regularly receive in the physical classroom. Teachers provide multiple modes of instruction including pre-recorded and live-video streaming in addition to discussion boards and class collaboration with practice and engagement. Students and teachers have been excited to see faces in real time through various platforms including Google Classroom, Zoom, Microsoft Meeting, among many others, which has allowed learning and class participation to be personal and a fun element to engage, rather than just sending assignments in a list form through email.

## Governance

Advisory Council met as previously scheduled on Monday, March 16th and agreed to continue meeting virtually for the remainder of the school year. Finance Council met yesterday and even had a special guest, Don Wagner, CFO for the Diocese of Fort Worth, present for the meeting. The findings in our annual report have been reviewed by the diocesan and local finance councils along with the advisory council and had favorable results along with a few things to work on in regard to adjusting to our new booking/logging systems. Finance Council will continue meeting for monthly meetings.

All ETE projects have continued and are still on track to be completed at the end of May. Owner, Architect & Construction (OAC) virtual meetings will continue weekly along with daily touch points throughout the remainder of the project.

Nolan Catholic is scheduled for accreditation for Spring 2021. Domain meetings will continue as regularly scheduled as each committee gathers and prepares information for the on-going Self-Study document to be submitted next Fall. This has actually been a fun project to embrace as it is an opportunity to document and present the growth from all areas of the Nolan community and gives clarity for next steps.

## Communication

Upon learning about the Coronavirus and next steps for schools, we immediately began planning with administration and sharing information with teachers as a preparation approach. All teachers were sent instructions about how to continue learning the weekend prior to returning from Spring Break. Teachers were given until Tuesday to send initial plans to families and students to initiate the approach, platform, and basic online classroom procedures. As this was unexpected teachers did a fantastic job getting all information out to families and have had ongoing weekly communication and training through Professional Learning Community Meetings (PLC) that are usually held on Wednesdays.

## Development

Over these last two weeks our department has continued to advance the mission of our wonderful Catholic high school. We have been connecting with our donors who have expressed interest in making Nolan Catholic a priority during this time through donations to the Annual Fund (\$3,000 needed to achieve our annual goal) and our Expanding the Experience master plan project (\$7 million needed to achieve our goal). The development team continues to process financial contributions and data entry into our giving software program, generate tax receipts and gift acknowledgement letters, run reports and analyze our year-to-date progress, and most importantly, assess the impact that COVID-19 will have on fundraising. For our alumni, we look forward to celebrating upcoming class reunions (classes ending in 0 and 5) in the fall and honoring members of our community for the Hall of Fame. Thank you for your continued support. We have the most amazing community and together #VikingsRise!



# ADMINISTRATION

## Continued Performance Accountability

We are reviewing and collaborating administratively with each department to ensure quality assessments and student engagement through regularly scheduled reviews on lesson plans, grading, and instruction performance. Teachers will continue to be evaluated through our current evaluation system. Rather than physical walk throughs, administrators will participate in virtual walk throughs and some full observations. Individual summative and performance reviews between administrators and teachers/staff will continue as regularly expected throughout the month of April and beginning of May.

## Business Office

Financial aid award letters are one of the few things that have experienced delay by a couple days. All award letters for those who have applied will be sent over the next few weeks. Please contact the business office or Leah Rios if there are any concerns or questions. The annual audit for Nolan Catholic was reported to the diocesan finance council, local finance council, and advisory council and was found to be favorable and clean report for an overall review. As recommended for the past ten years, we are continuing to work on the numerical deficit in the budget and build supporting endowments for operations and tuition support, continue to increase enrollment, and adjust our approach to fundraising and giving through strategic planning in close collaboration with our councils and administration.

## Admissions

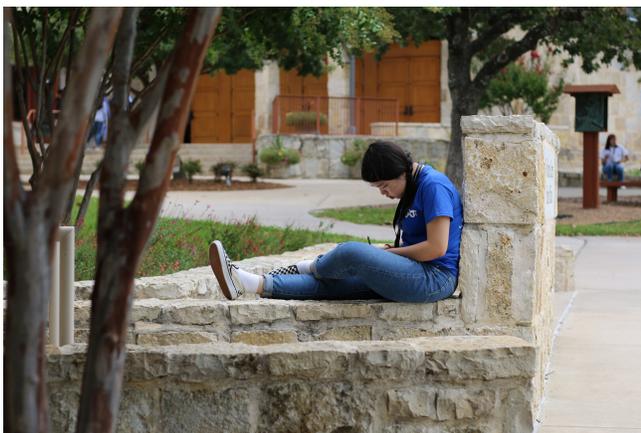
Thankfully, with all of your participation in the re-enrollment process we have 98% of our students and families already committed to returning for the 2020-2021 school year. This is a record-breaking commitment at this time of year as far as we can track for Nolan Catholic. In addition, our incoming freshman numbers are higher than last year at this time of year. We are continuing to get interest and will move forward with our freshman family interviews, parent orientations and information meeting nights virtually. Counselors will be meeting with freshman families throughout the months of April and May to set schedules for the upcoming school year.



# NOLAN GIVES BACK & SHARES

## Student Service Projects

Campus ministries continues to creatively work with local and outside partnerships to keep our students connected with service and giving. Students have currently been offered the opportunity to create instructional videos to be posted on the Nolan Catholic website to serve as a resource page for parents and educators to use while teaching in the home. Videos may include academic topics, food preparation, practical life skills (tying shoes, washing dishes, etc.), singing lessons, practical ways to memorize content or prayers, exercise and athletics, story reading, etc. Each video is expected to have a formula: opening prayer, title & overview, activity instruction, practice, participant engagement, closure of activity, and closing prayer. Students also have the option to record read alouds using story books and novels for oral listening options for younger, emerging readers. Students are also participating in offering virtual hang-outs for partner schools including East Fort Worth Montessori Academy. Some of these activities include safe gaming interactions and interactive elementary friendly exercise meetings through zoom, all monitored by staff from both schools.



## Educators Sharing Resources

Amidst tackling their own courses and creatively engaging students, Nolan Catholic teachers and administrators have been helping other districts and schools around the metroplex and Texas. Much of this was initiated from word-of-mouth from our families sharing out our communication. We are so grateful for every phone call and email we receive as it is an excellent opportunity to share the creativity initiated and implemented by our educators and opens the door for collaboration. What an exciting way to continue growing professionally and growing in a way to help serve students not just at Nolan, but all over Texas. Thank you to our educators for willingly sharing all materials and creativity in lesson design, communication emails, and overall structure for guiding a campus administratively.

POST YOUR SCHOOL SPIRIT ON  
SOCIAL MEDIA! MAKE SURE TO TAG

#VikingsRise

# ACADEMICS AND CONTINUED LEARNING

## Curriculum

Nolan Catholic High School has opted to continue learning with what has been familiar to our students using the planned curriculum for each content area. The delivery in which the content is presented varies through different meeting platforms, but mostly using Google Classroom and Google Meetings. The content for each subject has maintained the integrity of the course objectives, quality of instruction, and delivery of information and content needed for each course without missing any calendar days for instruction. As we move further into the curriculum and prepare for quality assessment, we have taken time to discuss and continue with what is best practice and the quality of expectations for our students at Nolan Catholic. As there have been many conversations with outside education professionals, we have chosen to engage in conversations, but continue to do what is best for learning through common on-going research of how the teenage brain thrives and the exposure of specific content for individual courses. Specific labs, collaboration, and integration of practice specific to each content area, including on-level, honors, dual credit, and AP courses have been a priority for continued instruction regardless of remote/distant/blended learning while providing quality instruction based on previously established practices. We will continue with material specific to the expectations of each course with the familiarity and consistency already established with our students. In addition to meeting the core academic needs, we will also continue to integrate prayer, faith-life, outdoor connections, and student-life into the academic curriculum of each course to continue the enriched learning expected in our traditional and virtual classrooms.

## Outdoor Learning

Click [here](#) to find all the communication encouraging outdoor learning with our own community as well as sharing out to other campuses.

## Guidance and Counseling

Counselors are communicating with all students through email for an initial check-in. Families are encouraged to reach out to counselors if there are any questions regarding schedules, student concerns, or college planning. Counselors have many resources and are willing to help make connections or gather information needed to address any questions. Important information including information on dual credit course registration, AP testing, and ACT registration etc. will be distributed from the principal's office through the weekly newsletter "School Talk" labeled Counseling. Counselors will also be continuing individual virtual student meetings for 2020-2021 schedules, reaching out to seniors to check in on scholarships, recommendation letters for specific programs within universities, and any lingering applications. Juniors will also receive communication for instructions on requesting recommendations from teachers and preparing for college applications, which open July 1 for most Texas schools.

## Learning Support

The Nolan Catholic Learning Support Team has been reaching out to individual families and students for support as needed. Any families needing support on organization, strategies on working at home, preparing for assessments, etc., please contact Jennifer Dahmer or Ana Nieves. They will continue sending all students weekly tips and helpful hints to studying at home.

Need support?

Contact Learning Support

[jdahmer@nchstx.org](mailto:jdahmer@nchstx.org)

[anieves@nchstx.org](mailto:anieves@nchstx.org)

# STUDENT LIFE & ACTIVITIES

## A NEW WAY OF BRINGING OUR COMMUNITY TOGETHER

### Weekly Challenges

Students have been charged with a challenge each week to keep engagement and the Viking spirit alive. The very first week back after Spring Break, we had a "Nolan turns Green" challenge to celebrate St. Patrick's Day. Students sent in pictures of different activities from home while in the spirit of green. This week, we are ramping up for our virtual pep-rally! Next week, we will request a picture challenge displaying service and prayer. Holy week will be filled with activities and community prayer.

### Spring Pep Rally

What!?!? A virtual pep-rally? Who ever heard of such a thing! Nolan Catholic...that's who! All Vikings have contributed their creativity highlighting spring sports and super spirit from home. Please click [here](#) to join our blue-out Friday for our virtual pep-rally!

### Cheer & Dance Try - Outs

Virtual tryouts...here we go! Cheer clinic and tryouts begin the week of March 30th using the Varsity tryout model offered through a secure video submission system. There are over 40 candidates trying out for Nolan Catholic Cheer! Our award winning Royelles program is preparing to launch virtual tryouts as well. The parent meeting is scheduled for April 8th. Moderators and seniors are preparing clinic material and processes for virtual tryouts for the week of April 14-16.

### Retreats

Campus Ministries is working with student leaders, Junior moderators, and administration to develop a virtual retreat experience for the Junior retreats. Students will have the opportunity to encounter Christ through talks, virtual collaboration, and prayer.

### NHS Tapping

Every year National Honor Society has a special ceremony in which officers go into each class to tap the students eligible to apply for NHS. As the students are tapped, they walk to the auditorium and receive a candle for a short ceremony during the school day. Moderators and student officers sent out celebration emails with a virtual candle to eligible students along with a [video](#) including individual parts of the ceremony that were recorded from home and created into a virtual ceremony.

### Athletics - Virtual Workouts

No black and white written plans for our Nolan athletes! Nolan Vikings have taken conditioning during H period Zooming it up offering the opportunity for students to work out together virtually. Other programs are sending in videos of their workouts as well.

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