



12/3/2020

Dear SFX Community,

I hope you all had a blessed Thanksgiving and are having a great week. I continue to monitor data and numbers daily and consult with health experts, including those at the Maricopa County Department of Public Health. As of today, the Maricopa County numbers continue to rise and two of the three state metrics (cases per 100,000 people and percent positivity) are in the red zone for the county. The third metric, Covid-like illness (CLI), is currently in the yellow zone but also continues to trend upward. As the CLI metric is reported based on the previous week's data, health experts predict that the CLI metric will fall into the red zone during the week of December 14.

All three categories are projected to be classified as substantial spread during the final week of the academic calendar in 2020. Therefore, we will implement our DLP2 plan beginning Monday, December 14th. In an effort to assess and minimize community spread during the break, DLP2 will continue the first week of school for 2021 with on-campus learning resuming **Monday, January 11th.**

I believe this roadmap stays true to the prioritization of the health and safety for all, and the academic, faith formation, and well-being of our students. In an environment where we literally have been taking things one day at a time, I realize the stress this can cause students, families, and our faculty/staff. I believe outlining the next month brings a level of clarity and understanding, as we continue to navigate this journey together. Make no mistake, on-campus learning is best for children. I am committed to that vision and way of proceeding and continuing to do so in a way that is safest for all.



It is my top priority to keep our campus as safe and as healthy as possible. I think this plan helps us to move forward solidly in that direction. We will make the transition to **DLP2 and BACK TO ON-CAMPUS LEARNING** in the following way:

- **Friday, December 11, 2020:** All needed tech/materials will go home at the end of the day with each student.
- **Monday, December 14, 2020:** All students will begin DLP2 synchronous instruction. For updated schedules, please be on the lookout for an email from your student's teacher.
- **Monday, January 4, 2020:** DLP2 synchronous instruction continues.
- **Monday, January 11, 2020:** On-campus instruction resumes.

Looking at the bigger picture, I believe the more we do now to ensure the safety and health of our students, staff, and families over the next month or so, the safer and healthier we will be as we enter 2021 and travel through the spring together. Vaccination information is very positive and encouraging so I am hopeful for what is on the horizon. We continue to walk on this path altogether and I am so proud of everyone and their effort to this point. In my most recent days, I have had the blessing to begin interviewing our 8th-grade students as they prepare for their high school applications. I have been asking them questions about being a student during a global pandemic. All of them acknowledge the challenges they have faced, but to a person, each continues to find the light in their ability to adapt, adjust, and be grateful for the small things. This has truly been inspiring to me. Our SFX students are the absolute best and are 100% kids for others!

Our faculty continues to deliver high-quality instruction each day and work tirelessly to help all learners in our student body. Our parents have been incredibly supportive, and I can tell you firsthand how grateful I am and we collectively are for the patience and understanding we've been given. This community is strong and we will continue to get stronger as we navigate through this pandemic together.



In our daily lives let us continue to be strong in our mitigation efforts to slow the spread of Covid-19. The mask-wearing, distancing, and hand washing has proven to be critical and important in slowing the spread of the virus.

I want to close by reminding everyone to take time to be with the Lord during this most incredible season of Advent. As we anticipate the birth of our Lord, Jesus, let us make time each day to pray and give thanks for the many gifts He gives us. And on this most special day, the feast day of St. Francis Xavier, let us continue to be men, women, and kids for others!

God bless you and continue to stay safe and healthy!

Ryan Watson