March 24, 2020

***Dear STH Alumni,***

I hope that you all are well and that you are taking good care of yourself during these troubling times. I am writing to give you an update on the school, our Alumni Association, as well as several events that were in the works before the Coronavirus (COVID-19) disrupted our lives.

First and foremost, as you would expect, the safety, health and well-being of our students has been our priority. As of March 13th, the St. Thomas campus has been closed and we have invoked a no visitor policy. In addition to that Friday, we have decided to extend Spring Break by a week allowing our faculty and staff to prepare and launch our STH Remote Learning program. Starting Monday, March 30th our students will be back in class, via this new off-site program and we will be delivering high quality content designed to prepare each student to move forward in their educational plan, as well as instill the values we cherish of goodness, discipline, and knowledge. Our current start date to have students return to campus is April 14, 2020.

During this time, we have been in touch with our Alumni Association President, Chris Malloy ’86. The months of March, April and May are quite a busy time for our group and we have had to make several adjustments. In short, all events have been cancelled or are in the process of being rescheduled. Although this includes many small meeting, on a larger scale, the Alumni Baseball game set for April 1st will be cancelled and we will pick up again next year. The Golf Tournament has been cancelled on April 27th and will be rescheduled when appropriate. Our Sports Hall of Fame on May 2nd has also been postponed and will be rescheduled at a later time.

To end this list of cancellations on a positive note, I am happy to say that the Alumni Association will move forward with the Scholarship Essay Contest. Essays will still be submitted by students, evaluated by our scholarship committee and awarded to the selected students.

During this time of uncertainty, I know that so many of you are concerned about your health, as well as the well-being of those closest to you. Please know that our staff members are working tirelessly to ensure that our community can move forward in a positive way. We face this challenge with confidence, creativity and conviction in what we believe as an organization. We exist to connect, inspire and love our Eagle Brothers and far reaching Eagle Community. I appreciate your patience as we work together while practicing our motto of teaching goodness, discipline and knowledge.

We will remain in constant communication with local health officials and state education agencies as we work to ensure the best maintenance of our school and the protection of our students and alumni.

Please continue to pray for those in need both physically and emotionally as we navigate these uncharted waters. Be safe and healthy.

Yours with Eagle Pride,

Mark deTranaltes, ‘83
Vice President for Advancement, St. Thomas High School

**HEALTH TIPS:**

Common symptoms of Coronavirus include fever, cough, and shortness of breath. Transmission of the disease is spread person-to-person through coughing, sneezing, or close contact of others. Please be mindful of the following steps that can be taken at home, and within the community to help protect you and others.

* Please stay at home if you are sick (and avoid contact with people who are sick)
* If you have not received an influenza vaccine, please get one as soon as possible
* Emphasis on frequent and thorough handwashing with soap and water, or hand sanitizer
* Avoiding hand contact with eyes, nose, and mouth
* Cover your cough with tissue/paper towel or the crook of your elbow
* Frequent wiping of commonly touched surfaces with disinfection supplies
* Do not pass personal electronic devices from one person to another
* Avoid sharing dishes, drinking glasses, cups, eating utensils, etc. with other people.

**RESOURCES:**

* Harris County Public Health – [COVID-19 Virus](http://publichealth.harriscountytx.gov/Resources/2019-Novel-Coronavirus)
* Harris County Public Health – [COVID-19 Virus Frequently Asked Questions](http://publichealth.harriscountytx.gov/Portals/27/Documents/Resources/2019%20nCoV/COVID%20FAQs_English_3.3%20Updated%20V1.pdf?ver=2020-03-04-131727-090)
* Center for Disease Control – [Frequently Asked Questions](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/faq.html)
* Center for Disease Control –  [COVID-19 Virus Transmission Facts](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/about/transmission.html)