



Immaculate Conception/St. Joseph Newsletter

www.boscocatholic.org

March 26, 2020

The Bosco Catholic School System provides students and families with academic, spiritual, moral, and sacramental formation so that they are prepared to be faithful disciples who are the light of Christ in the world.

Immaculate Conception/St. Joseph Families,

Greetings from school! I hope that all of you are doing well during this unprecedented time! It seems each day that I learn of something or someone else that has been impacted in a way that I had not thought of. I have always thought myself to be an appreciative person but I am finding new things every day to be consciously appreciative of. I am so thankful for all of the ways that we see people stepping up, helping out, and showing God's love through their words and deeds.

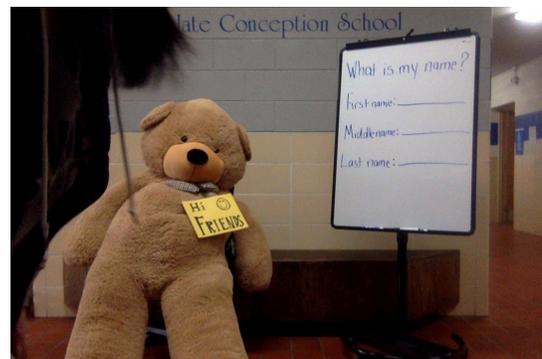
I am so proud of the efforts our staff has been making to stay connected to our students during this time. I wanted to take a moment to clarify our approach during this time. Our top priority is maintaining a personal connection with our students during this time. Strong, positive relationships between students, teachers, and parents are the cornerstone of effective instruction. Thus, our goal is to keep that connection with all of you. A secondary goal is to try to provide students with instructional support during this time. We are doing this by providing learning activities and opportunities as well as availing ourselves to students if they need us. The activities and opportunities are supplemental and not considered to be part of our core curriculum. And this is important to understand during this time. The reason schools cannot "require" remote (online) learning is because of the inequity in instruction that would be created because there cannot be a guarantee of equal access to instruction. That is why there is no new instruction being offered that would be part of the core instruction that kids would be receiving at school. As an example, we wouldn't want Teacher A to offer instruction in Chapter 5 in math during this time and then want to move right into Chapter 6 when kids return as there would be no way to ensure that all kids got that instruction in Chapter 5. This is a simplistic explanation but hopefully, it gives you a little better understanding.

We are working hard to find a balance in what we are doing as we know each family has unique needs at this time. Some families have a lot of time at home to help kids with activities other families still have both parents working and are struggling to keep up. We are trying to provide enough support and opportunities to meet each family where they are at. Please remember that none of what teachers are sending is required. Please also remember that your child will not fall behind if he or she does not complete all of the opportunities presented. The last thing we want is for families and kids to feel overwhelmed during this time. If you don't respond to all of the teacher emails, that's okay! They understand! Please find the balance that works for your family and just know that we are here to help in any way that we can.

Did you know...

We had a surprise visitor show up at our school on Monday morning! Apparently, "Bears, Bears are Everywhere!" around our towns these days! We had many friends help come up with a name for our new friend.

I drew names out yesterday and we came up with a first, middle and last name for him. So...his name is Teddy Bear Don Bearsco Kobe! That's quite a name! If you go onto the Bosco Catholic School System Facebook page you can see the video of me drawing the names!



I wonder what other adventures our new friend might have while all of the kids are at home?!?!?!?

Please send all newsletter items to icsjnewsletter@boscocatholic.org by 8:00am on Wednesday, April 1.

Schools Closed

Our schools will be closed for the next two weeks (except for custodial staff). Phone messages and emails will be checked.

Kindergarten Round Up

The Kindergarten round up scheduled for tomorrow will be rescheduled.

Spring Musical

Don Bosco's Spring Musical scheduled for this weekend has been canceled.

Family Literacy Night

The K-5 Family Literacy Night scheduled for April 1 has been canceled. We look forward to next year's Family Literacy Night.

Battle of Books

Both the elementary and middle school Battle of Books has been canceled for this year.

Mrs. R's Bosco Counseling Corner

I have created a Facebook page to keep in touch with all of you during this time. You will have to search Mrs. R's Bosco Counseling Corner. I will post different activities, videos, articles, etc. I can't wait to connect with all of you! Mrs. Rutherford

Nurse's Notes

Hi from home. This is a different time for all of us right now. I would like to encourage you to try and stick to a routine. A great way to encourage the use of math skills is to cook. Plan meals. Read recipes. Prepare something that may be different than you usually have. Make sure to include 5 servings of fruits and vegetables in your day. Make time to get some form of exercise or movement. The recommendation is for 60 minutes of physical activity a day for children and 30 for adults. How do you make that happen in your day? We are hopefully going to see better weather soon and can get outdoors for a walk. Turn on the music and have a dance party. Get plenty of rest. Try to keep your getting up and going to bed routine consistent. Read a book. Journal about what is going on right now. Take care of your physical, mental and emotional health. Marianne Hickey RN

Vacation Bible School 2020

We are looking forward to VBS 2020! Please follow the link if you are interested in your students attending or volunteering. Questions can be directed to Mrs. Ownby, Ms. McMaster, or Mrs. Wellman. https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfPHSEaNee-tESIPpw37T9WVCGATKG1G8NbSJ8PjjijyLPxk-Q/viewform?usp=sf_link

Hey Bosco Catholic Families,

I would like to put together a digital 'Stations of the Cross' to share as a community during this time of isolation in Lent.

What I need from all of you are volunteers to do the readings. I would send you one of the reflections and you would record yourself reading the reflection as a QuickTime audio file and send it back to me. This is open to anyone who would like to participate: students, parents, faculty, and staff.

If you are interested in participating send an email to Ms. Mayer smayer@boscocatholic.org. Let me know if you would be willing to:

- read a longer reflection
- read a shorter reflection
- announce a station
- record responses as a family.

Thanks in advance for your participation. Ms. Mayer

Apply for STO (Tuition Assistance)

- The online FACTS application for STO award consideration is open and available at <https://online.factsmgt.com/aid>.
- If families applied through FACTS last year, they should use their same user name and password.
- Families must upload a completed 2019 federal tax return and related tax documents if they are required to file a federal return.
- The application deadline is April 15, 2020.
- The STO application is required for your local school tuition assistance program.

529 Plan -Iowa 529 Savings Plans Information

The Iowa 529 Savings Plan is an account established by any Iowa taxpayer to save and invest money for tuition in any K-12 religious/private Iowa school and/or any college in the country. The account is designated for a specific student and can be used only for tuition for that student. All withdrawals used for tuition, including investment gains, are free from both federal and state taxes. Each taxpayer's situation is different so it is important to talk to a tax professional before setting up an account.

HOW DO I SET UP A 529 ACCOUNT?

The Iowa Treasurer's Office is in charge of this program. Any taxpayer can go to their website at www.CollegeSavingsIowa.com, submit an application, and transfer the funds into their 529 account. As part of that application, a beneficiary (the student) has to be named and an investment option provided on the form has to be chosen.

WHO CAN SET UP A 529 ACCOUNT?

Anyone can set up an account for any student. The beneficiary does not have to be related to the taxpayer. There is no limit as to how many accounts can be set up.

Don Bosco's Spring Blood Drive

Don Bosco's spring blood drive is coming up on Tuesday, April 7 from 1:00 to 6:00pm. In the midst of school closures we are moving this event to the American Legion in Gilbertville (1110 6th St.). It is essential that we not cancel this event. The FDA is urging eligible donors to donate.

More than 25% of the blood collected is needed for patients undergoing cancer treatment, the remainder collected is needed for patients undergoing other life sustaining treatments and for emergencies and surgeries. It is very important that we continue to collect blood for our patients.

To schedule an appointment call 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767) Or visit [redcrossblood.org](https://www.redcrossblood.org) or contact Sharon Mayer 319-240-3461 or Julie Frost 319-215-6948

Below is a link to a YouTube video produced by the FDA that discusses the absolute need for blood donors:

<https://m.youtube.com/watch?v=daWHi21Jiu4&feature=youtu.be>

Some more points to consider:

- Two federal agencies are urging people in the United States to continue donating blood during the coronavirus pandemic.
- The US Department of Health and Human Services, the US Food and Drug Administration and US blood banks are urging blood donations and trying to calm fears. They said in a statement that coronavirus **does not pose any known risks to blood donors during the donation process.**
- The FDA and HHS said the cancellation of blood drives means they are unable to keep the blood supply adequately replenished.
- “We need people to prevent the blood supply from getting depleted. We need it not to get to the point that surgeries are having to get canceled,” Marks said. “That’s something we absolutely do not want to have happen. To ensure an adequate blood supply we need people to come out and donate blood.”
- The FDA said there “have been no reported or suspected cases of transfusion-transmitted coronavirus and the virus poses no known risk to patients receiving blood transfusions.”
- “It is safe to donate blood,” said Admiral Dr. Brett P. Giroir, assistant secretary for HHS. “Part of preparedness includes a robust blood supply. Healthy individuals should schedule an appointment to donate today to ensure that blood is available for those patients who need it.”
- Kate Fry, chief executive of America’s Blood Centers, which collects close to 60% of the nation’s blood supply, urged people to donate before things get worse.
- “Blood donors are needed now more than ever. We cannot wait for the situation to intensify further before taking action,” Fry said. The blood supply cannot be taken for granted and the coronavirus only heightens the need for a ready blood supply.”

Boosterthon Support

Boosterthon (Fun Run) shared with us some special things they are doing to help support families at home during this season. You know, turning lemons into lemonade :)

@8am CST: Watch our **Story Time** each day on **our Facebook page**. During this interactive video session, a Booster Team Member will read a beloved children’s book aloud. You don't want to miss it!

@11am CST: Join the **BoostFit Fitness Break** on **our Facebook page** each day.

During this fun, high-energy video session, a Booster Team Member will lead your students through a series of fitness challenges. We encourage you to do them alongside your kids! Maybe you could even do a few with your students!

@2pm CST through March 31st: Our **National Family Fun Run** program is streaming LIVE on **our Facebook page**. This is not a fundraiser! Our Booster team will lead families in fun dance breaks, teach character lessons, and issue fun challenges families can do together.

And on April 1st: we’ll host a **National Family Fun Run Day**, where families can get active!

We’re also opening up our Character Video Library to ALL schools and families across the country for the rest of the school year—so families can now stream 75+ character and fitness-based videos at no cost. Families can register on [BoosterthonCharacter.com](https://www.BoosterthonCharacter.com) using the access code: **home**.

We hope these activities serve not only as a helpful resource during this time but also as an opportunity for your families to engage in character-building conversations while also staying active at home.

Stay healthy and safe!

United States
Census
2020



Let's get our share of federal funding.

We lose approximately \$2,000 per year for every uncounted individual in the **2020 Census**. This money has to come from somewhere in our community, most likely through higher property taxes. Count yourself.

Learn more at
youcount-bhc.com



Building a better community, one count at a time.