



ST. IGNATIUS COLLEGE PREPARATORY

EDUCATE. INSPIRE. LAUNCH.

Dear Class of 2021,

The Counseling Department hopes that all of you are safe and healthy during this challenging time. One of the reasons that this has been so challenging for all of us - students, teachers, counselors, administrators, and staff - is that our lives are so intertwined in the incredibly strong community that is SI. During difficult times, we expect to rely on each other for support, strength, and guidance. Although we are not physically in each other's presence during this time, the strong bonds of our community will continue to provide us with what we need to get through this.

It will look different, it will sound different, and it will feel different. A Google Hangout is different than a classroom discussion. A Zoom video conference isn't the same as talking with your counselor in their office. A WhatsApp room isn't the same as your usual gathering in the library or the Student Center. But the compassion, care, and love that fuel these online virtual interactions are the same compassion, care, and love that have made this community such an integral part of our lives.

So...what now? To quote Thomas Merton:

You do not need to know precisely what is happening, or where it is all going. What you need is to recognize the possibilities and the challenges offered by the present moment, and to embrace them with courage, faith, and hope.

In the past few days, the challenges have become clearer with each passing day, and they will likely get more pronounced over the coming days and weeks. But before we address the disruptions that have thrown many of our plans up in the air, we need to remind you that this too will pass. You will complete the school year. You will become a senior. You will fill out college applications. And you will go to college. You will do all of the things that you need to in order to become the person that you have been preparing yourself to become. But for the near future, it's just going to be a little different. As best we can, let's embrace these possibilities with courage, faith, and hope.

Right now, each of you may be in a different place with regard to your willingness and ability to think about college. For some of you, it may seem trivial in light of everything that is happening in the world. Others may find the opportunity to research and think about college as a welcome diversion from the news. If that is you, [information can be found here](#). Whatever emotional space you are in, that's fine. Do what you need in order to take care of yourself. You will receive a separate email from the Wellness team with some suggestions and tips for taking care of yourself at this time.

Last week your College Counselor sent you an email letting you know how to reach them. If you want to, take them up on the offer and connect. Your counselors are here for YOU, so let them know how they can help. In the meantime, we will keep you all in our prayers and ask that you do the same for us. If you don't pray, just send us some good vibes - we all need them. There may be limits or constraints in the ways that we can communicate and support each other. Fortunately, there is no limit on the compassion, care, and love that make SI a special place. If we can remind ourselves of that, we will be better able to embrace these new possibilities with courage, faith, and hope. As Ignatians, that's what we are called to do.

Let us remember...



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