



ST. IGNATIUS COLLEGE PREPARATORY

EDUCATE. INSPIRE. LAUNCH.

Dear Class of 2020,

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 from 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 your lives for the last four years.

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 graduate. 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.

If you are one of the students who is eagerly awaiting admissions decisions from schools over the next two weeks, you don't yet have all of the information that you need to make a decision about your plans for next year. As you receive those decisions, if you need help in making sense of your options, reach out to your College Counselor and set up a time to connect.

If you are one of the students who was hoping to visit a college campus before making a decision, you may be worried about how you will be able to make an informed choice. Please know that many colleges are trying to come up with solutions for you - some are arranging virtual tours, webinars and/or Zoom meetings. Are these solutions perfect? No, not at all. But it's also important to remember that college admissions offices are staffed by people like us. Their lives have also changed. They are stocking up on groceries, caring for loved ones, canceling plans, and trying to find a way forward - they are doing all of the same things that we are, while also doing difficult and demanding jobs. As soon as they are able, they will try to devise solutions - solutions that will help you make the best choice possible under the circumstances. We ask that you be mindful of your reasoning in contacting schools at this time. The College Counselors have been in touch with some colleges. Trust us

- they are working on it, while also responding to a rapidly evolving situation and adjusting on the fly. Perhaps the most important thing to keep in mind right now is that the certainty we all crave during this very uncertain time is simply not attainable.

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. Do what you need to.

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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