



April 23, 2020

Dear Parents and Guardians,

During this incredibly difficult and unprecedented time, we have been working together to ensure that every member of our Independence Mission School community is fully supported. Our principals and teachers have worked tirelessly to ensure our students continue to experience and engage in a robust learning experience, our staff worked quickly to coordinate the distribution of electronic devices to those families with limited or no device access, and you as parents have been our partners through every step of this process. We appreciate your willingness to adapt to a new way of learning, for your invaluable feedback as we iron out the challenges, and for your patience and support while we navigate the uncertainty of this pandemic.

As a community of faith, we are working together, praying together, and taking care of each other to ensure we all make it through this crisis. Yet we understand that many of our families will be hit hard by this COVID-19 crisis. It is because of this that we are taking three immediate actions.

1. **May Tuition Relief:**

- In order to help lessen the burden facing our school communities, we have made the decision to waive the May tuition payment. Although this action poses a financial burden to us, generous donors and supporters who believe in our mission and vision have stepped up to assist us in this time of need. Their donations have enabled us to partner with our families in getting through these difficult times together.
- For those families who have already paid in full for this school year, we will be offering a pro-rated credit for the 2020-2021 school year.

2. **Graduation Fees:**

- Each school has done its best to ensure our graduates are recognized for their achievements, and schools are exploring opportunities to honor graduation traditions and celebrate graduates in the months ahead. Since the ceremonies and celebrations will likely look different than in years past, we will be working with each principal to ensure the appropriate fees are reimbursed to our 8th grade families through TADS.

3. **Tuition Relief Fund:**

- We know that our families make significant sacrifices so that their children have access to an academically rigorous, faith-filled learning environment, and we want to ensure that they can continue their child's Catholic education in this time of crisis. Therefore, we have established an **IMS COVID-19 Family Relief Fund** for any family facing financial need because of job loss or reduced income.
- Families can access the Tuition Relief Fund application for the March and April tuition payments at: <https://form.jotform.com/missionschools/COVIDRELIEF>

We want our school communities to feel supported during this time of need, and the above actions are an opportunity for us to strengthen our relationship with our families. With your continued support and partnership, we are confident we will emerge from this crisis stronger than ever! We are a few weeks to the finish line and together we will cross it.

Sincerely,

Bruce Robinson
President & CEO
Independence Mission Schools

Holy Cross
144 E. Mt Airy Avenue

Our Mother of Sorrow s/
St. Ignatius of Loyola
617 N. 43rd Street

St. Barnabas
6334 Buist Avenue

St. Cyril of Alexandria
716 Emerson Avenue

St. Frances Cabrini
405 N. 65th Street

St. Gabriel
2917 Dickinson Street

St. Helena-Incarnation
6101 N. 5th Street

St. Malachy
1012 W. Thompson Street

St. Martin de Porres
2300 W. Lehigh Avenue

St. Martin of Tours
5701 Loretto Avenue

St. Raymond of Penafort
7940 Williams Road

St. Rose of Lima
1522 N. Wanamaker Street

St. Thomas Aquinas
1631 S. 18th Street

St. Veronica
3521 N. 6th Street

The DePaul Catholic School
44 W. Logan Street