



# ARCHDIOCESE OF AGAÑA

## Office of Catholic Education

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April 21, 2020

Dear Families of Catholic School Students:

The leaders of the elementary schools in the Archdiocese of Agaña continue to work with teachers to provide meaningful and effective lessons through online platforms, remote learning using textbooks and the exchanging of assignments, and web conferences including students and teachers. Teachers also continue to exchange email messages or phone calls with students and their families.

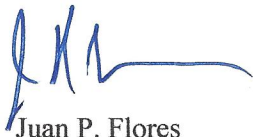
The challenges have been great. For the teachers, the relationships with students have been changed and the mode of instruction is nothing like what they have experienced in the past. For the students and their families, the interactions among students in the class and with their teachers has had an effect on their learning. This has been challenging for families who work hard to keep up with adult responsibilities while supporting their children's learning.

As we approach the end of April, the school leaders convened in a web conference to address the end-of-the-year issues. Of course, the uncertainty of the Stay-at-Home order makes final decisions difficult. Here are some details that list approaches to ending the fourth quarter and the academic year:

- 1) **Official End of School.** School calendars officially end the academic year on May 29. The last days for online instruction, assessments, return of school materials, and other activities will be determined and announced by each school.
- 2) **Promotional Exercises.** Any exercises for kindergarteners and 8<sup>th</sup> grades will be determined by each school. Any planning for activities is held up by further calls for at-home quarantines and the discouragement of public gatherings.
- 3) **4<sup>th</sup> Quarter Grades.** All teachers and school leaders recognize the challenges in delivering effective instruction, assessing and validating student work, and developing an equitable but informative grade for each student. No doubt teachers will have the benefit of understanding the students' skill levels, abilities, and challenges through the first three quarters. Teachers want to recognize the students' level of effort and their learning in the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter. They also want to acknowledge the adjustments the students have made, their limitations in terms of internet access and support from family members. The teachers are striving to be reasonable and fair.
- 4) **End-of-the Year Grades.** All students have valid grades for the first three quarters. Each teacher and each school will determine the extent to which the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter grade will affect the final grade for the entire academic year. Details will be provided by each school.

Our Catholic school communities – leaders, teachers, students, and families, deserve awards for being “HEROES” during these challenging times. Special acknowledgement goes out to teachers who went out of their way to support their colleagues, students who were patient with and supportive of their adjustments to distance learning, and families who communicated with the schools, provided treats for school staffs and supported the schools in other ways. The schools appreciate the families of Catholic school students who continue to meet financial obligations and have been understanding of the financial challenges this pandemic has placed on the schools and the families as well. The solid Catholic, Christian foundation of our schools is evident during this unprecedented time in our lives. Un Dangkulo na Si Yu’os Ma’ase!

God bless you all during this Easter season. May the spirit of Christ’s resurrection continue to live in us and guide us at a time when we need it the most.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'J. P. Flores', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Juan P. Flores  
Superintendent, Office of Catholic Education