



Dear St. Joseph Catholic School Families,

I hope you are doing well and staying healthy while enjoying your summer! Given the current situation with the ongoing COVID crisis I would like to give you some updated information about our plans for starting school.

Our plan is to begin distance learning August 10 and continue with distance learning through Labor Day. In August, we will start scheduling online Zoom meetings or meetings via Google Meet and/or providing videos from your child's teacher as an online orientation to communicate teacher, family and student expectations, as well as a "how to" on using Google Classroom. I am working on a detailed plan and will send it out as soon as I have it ready.

Please remember - this is our plan as it stands today. This situation is ever-changing, and there are no guarantees that these dates will stay the same. In order to count for scholarship days in attendance, and most importantly to maximize learning for students, we will adjust our calendar to account for any days we have to make up due to starting later than scheduled. A new calendar is attached. PLEASE NOTE THAT OUR "DAYS OFF" MAY STILL BE ADJUSTED BASED ON SCHOOL CLOSURE RECOMMENDATIONS. We may or may not take off the days scheduled for fall break in October - we may use days before and/or days after if we open in person and are then required to close campus due to COVID-19.

Distance Learning will be very different from the Emergency Remote Learning we had happening the final weeks of school this past year.

- Most teachers will be working from campus, so their "work" hours will be similar to what they are in a normal school year.
- At this time, we will plan for distance learning through Labor Day, since it is likely the Governor will extend the recommendation to delay students being on campus.
- IF students are allowed to be on campus earlier than Labor Day, we are open to the possibility of allowing SOME students, (maybe limited to those with no childcare or optimal access to online learning), to come to school on campus. However, we would continue with distance learning through Labor Day for everyone else, even if the Governor gives the ok to be in person.
- We feel this allows families to plan for childcare. And of course, if things get worse with COVID-19, that plan could change!
- Beginning Tuesday September 8th (again, this assumes the governor has reopened schools) we will then offer you the choice to continue with distance learning from home or have your student return to the school campus.

#### **OTHER INFORMATION:**

Until further notice, School Mass and in-person parent conferences will be cancelled. These days still show on our calendar, but they will be changed or cancelled. Also please note that the first day has remained the same on the calendar; however, we will most likely use August 4-7 as our sign up days for picking up books, dropping off supplies and meeting your child's new teacher. More information will follow.

Please know that we have taken into account all guidance provided by various health and safety agencies, always keeping your child's safety at the forefront. Distance or online learning will look different from what it did in the spring. This time we are prepared for the situation - we are not in an emergency remote learning situation.

#### **These are some of the systems and support we will have in place to start off the year:**

- We are planning for teacher Professional Development on many online tools, including Google Classroom.
- Parents will be required to attend a session on how Google Classroom works for your child in their grade.
- Online learning time will be structured and interactive, so please start thinking of how your child will be able to engage with Zoom meetings throughout the school day, and what support you will need.

We want to make the most of the situation we are in, and we want to make it engaging and enjoyable for your child.

#### **PLEASE COMPLETE THE SURVEY YOU RECEIVED AS THIS WILL HELP US PLAN FOR TECHNOLOGY NEEDS.**

Regarding books & supplies: We will be in communication as the date comes closer as to how we will handle the students picking up curriculum materials as well as control how many people are on campus at a time.

I thank you for your patience, support and prayers as we go through this TOGETHER! There isn't one of us who hasn't been affected by this pandemic, and together, we will get through it! Enjoy your family while they are at home - we are blessed to have this additional time with our families without all the business of other things!

Wishing you much peace,  
Kathy Van Loan, M. Ed. Principal