

AUGUST 5, 2020



St. John Catholic School

Educational Ministry of St. John The Baptist Parish



ON THE HORIZON:

August 17th

First day of the 2020-2021 school year
Distance learning
Noon "Dismissal"

August 18th

Noon "Dismissal"

August 19th

Noon "Dismissal"

August 20th & August 21st

Regular distance learning hours

September 3rd

6:00 pm
Online PTG Meeting

September 7th

NO School- Labor Day

Dear Shamrock Family,

The time is almost upon us, the start to the 2020-2021 school year! As I have mentioned before, our School Site Planning Committee (SSPC), as well as our teachers and staff have been working diligently to plan for and provide a comprehensive and robust learning platform that will make meaningful the online learning experience, as will offer a smooth transition into what we hope will be the opportunity for a hybrid learning model (onsite for those who want it), when appropriate. While this is not the way in which we had hoped to start our year, we are well prepared and very ready to greet and welcome back our school families and are excited to build upon our distance learning platform from the Spring.

I offer to you my personal greeting in this [linked welcome video](#), as we embark on an exciting new year, assured to provide opportunities for growth. As I mentioned before, we remain committed to not only offering a supportive academic learning platform, but also are focused on ways to maintain and strengthen our faith and community connection as a school community. Our SJCS theme for the school year is: *One Community, One Team, One Family* and I pray that we will work together to proclaim and live out this message in all that we say and do. Now more than ever, thank you for your continued support, commitment and partnership.

Blessings,
Ms. Paige Child

For I know the plans I have for you," declares the LORD, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.

-Jeremiah 29:11

STUDENT SUPPLY AND YEARBOOK PICK-UP:

On Wednesday, August 12th and Thursday, August 13th, we will offer student supply/yearbook pick-up windows during which parents may come to the school campus to obtain supplies and technology necessary for distance learning. Tables, labeled by grade, will be set up in the playground area. We ask that all visitors enter through the back playground gate, wearing masks and gloves and practice social distancing. Families will need to bring with them a signed copy of the **Supply Liability Form** that will be provided to families by homeroom teachers, via email on Tuesday, August 11th. These forms are grade specific, indicating each of the school-issued supplies that will need to be returned in good, working condition at some point during the school year. Please look out for this **Supply Liability Form** from your child's homeroom teacher. If you are unable to bring this signed form to supply pick-up, we will arrange to have some available for signature upon pick-up. Should you be picking up student supplies for multiple families, you must come with a signed copy of the liability form on behalf of the families for whom you are picking up supplies. We advise that you carefully disinfect the outer layer of the technology device prior to use and that you wait 3 days to open any student supply packages and then disinfect supplies prior to use.

Student Supply Pick-Up Times:

August 12th from 3:00pm-6:00pm

August 13th from 10:00am-1:00pm

PARENT ORIENTATIONS:

On Wednesday, August 12th, teachers will be sending parents an email with a Parent Orientation. This communication may consist of a video, PowerPoint, or slide deck with information necessary for your family to be best prepared to begin school online, on August 17th. We ask that you please take the time to review orientation material as soon as possible, preferably before 6pm on Thursday, August 13th.

LIVE PARENT Q&A SESSIONS:

On Thursday, August 13th, teachers will offer time for parents to join in on a live, question and answer session, during which parents can ask clarifying questions pertaining to any of the parent orientation information that was provided the day prior. This is the time to gain clarity around any details pertaining to our distance learning start to the school year. The Live Q&A Parent Sessions on August 13th are as follows:

Session 1- 6:00pm-6:25pm

Session 2- 6:30pm-6:55pm

Parents will be provided with invitation links/access codes to each of the sessions and parents may choose which one they attend. Our aim in providing two sessions per class is to accommodate families with multiple SJCS students. Otherwise, as always, our teachers and staff are available to communicate with parents via email or virtual meeting platforms.

PTG (Parent/Teacher Group):

Our first, online PTG meeting will be held on Thursday, September 3rd at 6pm. All families will be welcomed to join in to kick off our school year, meet our PTG parent representatives, and offer input on community building events and PTG fundraising goals. Please look out for upcoming communication and links for all upcoming meetings. Here's to a GREAT new year!

A SHAMROCK WELCOME!



We welcome Mrs. Maria Concepcion Adora- Vidal to St. John as our 7th grade homeroom teacher and middle school math & science teacher for the 2020-2021 school year! Please view Ms. Vidal's professional bio below.

Mrs. Maria Concepcion Adora- Vidal served as the 7th grade homeroom teacher and 7th and 8th grade math and science teacher at St. Cornelius Catholic School from August 2005 to June 2020. She received her Bachelor of Science in Education, major in General Science from the Divine Word College, Calapan City, Philippines. She finished her Master of Arts in Education with Science Education as her area of specialization from the Philippine Normal University, Manila, Philippines. Regarding her work experience, Mrs. Adora-Vidal taught at a Catholic school and public school in her home country, the Philippines. When she came to the United States she was a Support Teacher at Edna Brewer Middle School, Oakland, CA in 2001-2002. During 2002-2003 she taught Biology and Physiology at Fremont High School, Oakland, CA and from 2003-2004 she taught Physics and Biology at Bertie High School, Windsor North Carolina.

Mrs. Adora- Vidal has attended professional development training and seminars sponsored by the Diocese of Oakland, Lumen Christi Academies and Saint Cornelius School. She took courses from UC Berkeley Extension such as Fostering Wellness, Classroom Tested Reading Techniques, K-12, Mainstreaming Disabled Students with Special Needs and Professional Teacher Development in the Intel Teach to the Future Program from UC Berkeley. These courses have helped her to prepare for and handle courageously the challenges of teaching. She is always seeking resources to better educate her students and to learn ways to challenge her students and extend their thinking. In her spare time, Mrs. Adora-Vidal enjoys cooking, dancing, listening to music and watching sports game with her husband. She is very much excited to join the St. John Catholic School family and to be part of the teaching staff in its mission of guiding children's learning to become successful life-long learners, especially in these challenging times.

A Prayer for St. John Catholic School

Almighty God, my school is composed of people like me.

I help make it what it is.

It will be friendly if I am friendly.

It will be holy if I am holy.

Its desks will be filled if I help fill them.

It will do great work if I work.

It will make generous gifts if I am a generous giver.

It will bring other people into its hallways if I invite and bring them.

It will be a school family of loyalty and love, of fearlessness and faith, of compassion, charity and mercy if I — who make it what it is — am filled with the same qualities.

Therefore, with the help of God, I will dedicate myself to the task of being all the things that I want my school to be.

Bless my journey, Lord God, that I might follow Jesus and build this school for your glory.

Amen.