

MARCH 18, 2020



St. John Catholic School

Educational Ministry of St. John The Baptist Parish



O Mary, you shine continuously on our journey as a sign of salvation and hope.

We entrust ourselves to you, Health of the Sick. At the foot of the Cross you participated in Jesus pain, with steadfast faith.

You, Salvation of the Roman People, know what we need. We are certain that you will provide, so that, as you did at Cana of Galilee, joy and feasting might return after this moment of trial.

Help us, Mother of Divine Love, to conform ourselves to the Father's will and to do what Jesus tell us: He who took our sufferings upon Himself, and bore our sorrows to bring us, through the Cross, to the joy of the Resurrection. Amen. We seek refuge under your protection, O Holy Mother of God.

Do not despise our pleas - we who are put to the test - and deliver us from every danger us from every danger, O glorious and blessed virgin.

A prayer from Pope Francis to the Virgin Mary

Dear Shamrock Family,

To begin, I appreciate your patience, positivity and flexibility during this, which will undoubtedly be, historic time in our lives. While there has been much change in regards to communication and updates, routines and schedules, and with the daily stream of what can be unsettling, sometimes downright scary news, I offer you peace and share with you my pride. I am proud of our students, who, many with smiles on their faces, were calm when reacting to news about our school facility's closure, were open to the opportunity of a different learning framework, and were diligent when reviewing and practicing Sustained Learning (formally known as Distance Learning) protocol with their teachers before we dismissed on Monday. I have incredible pride in our teachers, who with short notice, reworked their teaching construct to meet the demand of a remote-learning experience for all students. I am grateful to our learning support staff who welcome the opportunity to make themselves available to students and school families to support the continuation of student learning. I am honored to work with an administrative team who remains focused and works proactively to collaborate with others to support clear and timely communication and provides necessary and immediate support to students and staff.

While we, the St. John Catholic School staff, are away from our school home, we are committed to extending ourselves into yours. There may be a perception that our teachers are embracing the luxury of "Shelter in Place" directives, but I can assure you that our staff is working diligently toward their craft, perhaps working in ways that are even more taxing than the norm. We are most definitely, not on a break! Our teachers and support staff remain committed to student learning. I remain committed to leadership of our school community. With every new posed challenge is an opportunity for growth, and that is the mindset with which our staff continues to work, dedicated to your family.

I recognize that our remote-learning circumstance is not ideal. I empathize with the stress parents must feel in response to worry around health, child care, and productivity. I respect the challenges that come with various parent work situations and in regards to students working outside of the school building. I honor parents who are still working outside of the home, those who are balancing working while at home with children who are to maintain an academic schedule and who may require parental support, and I pray for parents who may be out of work at this time, due COVID-19 related layoffs. May we all consider and pray for each other. May we all reflect on the concerns of others and extend graciousness to one another.

In response to what is next, I am currently awaiting diocesan directive in regards to our school's reopening. With that said, I believe our planning around our Sustained Learning approach is strong. It is my every intention to welcome our students back to school as soon as deemed safe and appropriate. At this time, this decision is quite above me. Nevertheless, for planning purposes, based on state-level mandates, it is likely that our students would not be permitted to attend school until at the very least, April 7th. Considering that our Easter break is currently scheduled to begin at noon on April 9th, I would hope to resume normal school routines, at the school site, on April 20th. Again, these are suggested dates, and I will have to inevitably follow directives provided by the Department of Catholic Schools, at the Diocese of Oakland, who will follow measures shared by the CDC and state leadership.

St. John Catholic School Newsletter

COVID-19 RELATED TUITION ASSISTANCE:

The SJCS Finance Team is working on an additional tuition assistance model for needy families during this tumultuous time, due to hardships related to the COVID-19 crisis. While tuition refund is not possible, due to the fact that all school employees will still be tasked with paid responsibilities during our "Shelter in Place" period, we at St. John are sensitive to the needs of our school families. More, detailed information regarding potential financial support for some of our school families will come in the near future.

DROPPING THINGS OFF/ACCESSING THE SCHOOL:

While the school is closed, due to mandate, items can be dropped off to the school by way of the drop-box slot, within the wall, to the right of the school's front door. Should you need access to the school, for any reason, an email may be sent to Ms. Marlene (magutierrez@cndo.org) or Ms. Aimee (asire@cndo.org) to make arrangements.

FUNDRAISING:

Due to Covid-19 and "Shelter in Place" orders, all future fundraising opportunities have been currently suspended, including that of See's Candy. School families' \$300 fundraising requirements will be taken into consideration for the 2019-2020 school year.

St. Gerard Women's Club Easter Bake Sale

In light of the recent orders from Alameda County re: coronavirus, the above event has been postponed at this time. Thank you for your consideration in this matter.

The BASIC Fund New Applications

Applications for all new students, including current families with incoming siblings, are due **today, Wednesday, March 18**. If you are applying for a younger sibling, you must call The BASIC Fund at 415-986-5650 to request an application link for the incoming sibling. If you wait to apply with current student renewals, you will have missed the deadline and be placed on the waitlist. There is no guarantee the new sibling will receive a scholarship. If you have any questions regarding applying for tuition assistance through The BASIC Fund please visit www.thebasicfund.org or call 415-986-5650

The FACE deadline to apply has been extended to **March 31st**.

Weekly communication in the form of our school's digital newsletter will continue. Additionally, updates pertaining to all items surrounding our mandated COVID-19 Sustained Learning routine will be made on our school's website and can be accessed using the tab, directly under "Welcome to St. John Catholic School" on the homepage. A direct link to these updates is provided below and all other necessary and immediate communication will be made using School Messenger.

<https://www.stjohncatholicsschool.org/important-information.html>

I encourage us all to make the most and the best of this time. I hope that we make prayer a portion of each day and focus on the meaning and value of relationships with others. I have reflected on, "What is God trying to tell us?" so far during this "Shelter in Place" time, and I implore each of you to consider this as well. For now, this will be the end of my formal communication through this message, but more on the questions posed in the previous sentence next week.

With Love and Appreciation,
Ms. Paige Child

TEACHER "OFFICE HOURS":

Teachers will be in daily communication with families during each Sustained Learning day beginning tomorrow, Thursday, March 19th. While teachers will be available via email or class dojo, per usual, they will also have respective "office hours" during which teachers will be available for virtual chatting/interfacing. Each teacher's "office hours" are indicated below.

- TK, Ms. Emily: (9-11am) and (2-4pm)
- K, Ms. O'Neill: (10am-2pm)
- 1st, Ms. DeVost: (8-10am) and (1-3pm)
- 2nd, Mrs. Ramirez: (8:30-11:30am) and (2:30-4pm)
- 3rd, Ms. Pires: (10am-noon) and (1-3pm)
- 4th, Mrs. Able: (8-10am) and (12-2pm)
- 5th, Mr. Sherman: (8-10am) and (11am-1pm)

Junior High Teachers

- Mr. Hay: Sixth grade (8-10am), Seventh grade (10am-12pm), Eighth grade (1-3pm)
- Ms. Thomasson: Sixth grade: (1-3pm), Seventh grade (9-11am) Eighth grade (11am-12pm)
- Ms. Passion: Seventh grade: Sixth grade (11am-12pm), Seventh grade (8-9am), Eighth grade (9 - 11am)
- Mrs. Babcock: (8-10am) and (2-4pm)
- Ms. Viviana: (11:30am- 1:30pm)

DAILY ATTENDANCE DURING SUSTAINED LEARNING PERIOD:

As directed by the Department of Catholic Schools (DCS), at the Diocese of Oakland, a Daily Sustained Learning Attendance Protocol has been issued to diocesan schools. The DCS is requiring daily parent communication confirming their child's attendance for each Sustained Learning day. Parents/guardians are being asked to communicate with each child's homeroom teacher each morning, (by 9:00am), via the means each homeroom teacher indicates (Google form, email, etc.). This confirmation of daily attendance is one way to prevent additional school days to be added on to the school year and for students to earn academic credit for their entire school year. A suggestion would be to have whomever would normally be responsible for getting your child to school each day, be the one to email/connect with the teacher regarding daily attendance. Should a homeroom teacher not hear from a particular student's parent/guardian by 9:00am on any particular Sustained Learning day, follow up communication will be made by school staff. Should parents/guardians be unreachable by 10:00am, a student will be marked absent for the day.