



# St. John Catholic School

*Educational Ministry of St. John The Baptist Parish*

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270 E. Lewelling Boulevard | San Lorenzo, California 94580  
(510) 276-6632 | Fax: (510) 276-5645 | [www.StJohnCatholicSchool.org](http://www.StJohnCatholicSchool.org)

July 17, 2020

Dear Shamrock Family,

I'm sure along with many of you, I watched Governor Gavin Newsom's [press conference](#) earlier today, discussing the reopening of California schools for the 2020-2021 school year, in light of the evolving Covid-19 pandemic. Governor Newsom delivered the mandate that all schools within any county who are indicated on the monitoring list within the past 14 days may not conduct onsite instruction and rather, distance learning must be the sole instructional model. St. John Catholic School falls within Alameda County, and [Alameda County](#) is currently listed on the monitoring list.

Considering the surges in Covid-19 cases and the pulling back of recent openings for other businesses in our area, I was well aware that a distance learning start was a possibility and our School Site Planning Committee (SSPC) and teachers have been preparing for this potential learning platform. While I am extremely confident in our ability to provide a robust, rigorous, and meaningful virtual learning program, I recognize the value of onsite instruction and learning experiences and am also in tune with parents' needs and desires to have their children at school. With this said, the health and safety our students, school families and school staff is of the utmost concern to me. While current data shows that elementary age children are least likely to transmit the Corona Virus to one another; adults- namely parents, grandparents and school staff are incredibly susceptible to the virus.

**Due to continued health concerns in relation to the Covid-19 pandemic, St. John Catholic School will begin the 2020-2021 school year with distance learning.** Rather than school families and staff not having a clear indication of our learning platform until potentially only days before our August 17<sup>th</sup> start date, I felt it necessary to make this decision now, for the sake of proper planning for both school families and staff. **Distance learning will be conducted through, at the very least, September 4<sup>th</sup>.** Our SSPC will continue to work on detailed plans for a safe and efficient phase-in hybrid onsite/distance learning model, when that model should be both safe and appropriate for our school. In August, our team will re-evaluate our ability to offer onsite instruction after Labor Day, given that by September 7<sup>th</sup>, we have spent 14 consecutive days off of the Alameda County health monitoring list.

Please know that it is my goal to welcome our school community back onsite. It is also my priority to do so thoughtfully and carefully, and our SSPC and staff will continue to plan diligently to do just that. I thank you for your patience and flexibility during these difficult times. The evolution of this pandemic has and will undoubtedly continue to insist upon the evolution of our instructional plans and practices. I am deeply grateful for your trust in our



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Careful planning, as well as for your partnership in Catholic education. I pray daily for the continued health and wellbeing of our community and look forward to further planning for our safe return to St. John Catholic School.

With Love & Hope,  
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