

APRIL 22, 2020



St. John Catholic School

Educational Ministry of St. John The Baptist Parish



Dear Shamrock Family,

I hope that the Easter break served you well and offered you time to rest, reflect and rejuvenate as we embark on the final leg of our school year. While I am filled with the hope of the Easter spirit, at this time, I have some difficult news to share with you. Over the course of the past few weeks, I have been tasked with the responsibility of reevaluating the staffing needs of our new Sustained Learning model, in conjunction with prioritizing the school's current and projected financial resources, as is related to the effects of the Covid-19 pandemic.

Our Sustained Learning Model has lasted and will persist much longer than was originally anticipated. With this model, there are less full-time responsibilities made available to *all* staff members. Sustained Learning requires much less of *some* staff roles that are imperative within our traditional school model. In accordance with acknowledging that the current learning model alters staffing dynamics, I must also remain vigilant in decision making that promotes the school's sustained financial viability. While St. John Catholic School is not in current financial jeopardy, as the COVID-19 pandemic persists, more and more families are finding themselves either unable or less willing to make consistent tuition payments. Regardless of the fact that Ms. Aimee and I have worked tirelessly and remain dedicated to an ever-evolving financial plan that supports school families' needs and the school's current and future financial construct, this lack of income does affect the school's financial position.

It is with the above-mentioned considerations that I have carefully determined the entirely gut-wrenching decision to lay-off a few of our beloved staff members, as of April 30, 2020. Below is a list of individuals who have been informed of their layoff, beginning May 1, 2020.

Ms. Amy Bucker
Ms. Devony Cota
Ms. Everlina Dancy
Ms. Caitlin Gardner
Ms. Marlene Gutierrez
Mr. Derek Hull-Jenkins
Mr. Martin Lara

It is my hope that this situation can rectify itself in the fall. I have shared with each of them, and I will share with all of you now, that each of the above-mentioned are incredibly respected and appreciated individuals, and it is not my desire to work without their partnership. While this is a parting of ways for now (in May), I hope to be able to offer each of them the opportunity for rehire, should they wish to accept, for the 2020-2021 school year. May we hold the entirety of our SJCS family in prayer, especially through this trying and unsettling time.

Announcements

Thursday nights with Mr. Enos!

If you're looking for something to do tomorrow evening (4/23) at 6:30pm feel free to join me for an online hangout. I will be streaming live on our Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/stjohnslz/>) and will send an invite to students for a google meet session. This week I'll be going over how to make masks. If you'd like to join in all you need is some fabric (or an old t-shirt) and some scissors. For those of you that have a sewing machine, I'll go over how to make a mask using a sewing machine, some fabric, and a shoelace. If you don't have those supplies but just want to drop in and say, "Hi" you're more than welcome. I hope to see you then!

-Mr. Enos

CARITAS:

Due to changes in California employment law, more specifically AB 5, which was signed into Law by Governor Gavin Newsom in September of 2019, Caritas can no longer offer some of the services they have provided in the past. Because of this, combined with parent feedback, community financial concerns, and availability dates, beginning in the 2020-2021 school year our junior high students will only attend Caritas Creek Camp during their 8th grade school year.

Those that have expressed concerns over the last few years feel that narrowing the Caritas experience to one week will alleviate financial strain, fundraising efforts, and allow for more core-content instructional focus. With the change in employment law, which has affected Caritas staffing, and in turn the financial burden being placed on our school families, our stakeholders believe this recommendation is in the best interest of our community at large.

Tell Me Something Good!

This section will be dedicated to content that brightens spirits.

First Grade Serves Others...

I just wanted to share something fun from first grade. Earlier in the year, the students came up with the idea of collecting quarters they won from playing Coach Ray's card game, so they could donate the money to people in need. Over break, I went to school to count up the money and they had collected \$62.85! We voted on which organization to give it to yesterday and they chose Save The Children, which is giving food and books to children who used to only have access to those things at school. It warmed my heart!

-Love,
Ms. DeVost

Thanks for sharing Ms. DeVost and thank you first graders for being selfless students who care for and serve those less fortunate. This exemplifies my shamrock pride!

Love, Ms. Child

In His great mercy, He has given us new birth into living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ.

May you have...

The gladness of Easter which is HOPE.

The presence of Easter which is PEACE.

The spirit of Easter which is LOVE.

1 Corinthians 16:14 says, "Let everything you do be done in love". May we cherish this Easter season as a time to be thankful for the gift of love and joy in our lives. May Christ's peace and joy surround you, now and always.

Attentively,
Paige Child