



# 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)

May 22, 2020

Dear St. John Catholic School Families,

We, the St. John Catholic School staff, have remained committed to student learning, throughout the school year and during the entirety of our Distance Learning time. Providing learning resources and support necessary to promote the academic growth of our students has, and continues to be our goal. Our teachers are dedicated to upholding high standards for academic excellence and supporting the integrity of student work and assessment. We recognize and respect the trust our families have in our responsibility to guide and support not only academic growth, but also in our ministry to support the spiritual, social and emotional stability and growth of our students.

We are quite aware of the great challenges that the Covid-19 pandemic has presented to many. We are empathetic to the various accommodations and sacrifices parents have made to adjust to the many changes that have occurred over the past few months, including namely that of our Distance Learning model. We recognize the impact the unknown has had on our school community, and while I hold incredible pride in our teachers and staff for not only transitioning to a remote learning model within a three-day period, but enhancing the model to the degree to which very little to no instruction has been lost, I must also consider and remain focused on student equity and emotional well-being during a time when much of students' learning environments have changed.

**As a student-focused school, we at St. John Catholic School, will ensure that our students are academically “held harmless” at the end of this trimester.** While we have remained vigilant in our teaching practices, and have worked tirelessly to provide routine and opportunity for all learners, it is our duty to acknowledge that the transition to our current learning model has not been one that is the same for all students. While we have provided the same resources to students within classes, not all students' remote learning environments have been uniform. In an effort to protect the mental and emotional health and well-being of our students, no student will fail or be denied promotion to the following grade level due to any performance during this current, third trimester. Below is a detailed outline of how St. John Catholic School will hold students harmless and how this will be reflected in our end of term formal reporting to parents.



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## **What Parents Need to Know As of Now:**

- There has been and will be no trimester 3 or end of year STAR testing of students
- All students will be offered the opportunity to be promoted to the subsequent grade level in August, regardless of trimester 3 academic performance
- No student will be assessed a failing trimester 3 grade (or a grade of a D or F), as is relevant to junior high students
- Cumulative, year-end averages will not be included (relevant to grades 6-8)
- Diocesan high schools (within the Diocese of Oakland) are aware and accepting of all of our grading and formal reporting practices and share understanding of the challenges associated with current Distance Learning model
- PowerSchool reporting codes (relevant to grades 3-8) may appear different in the coming days/weeks
- Trimester 3 report card codes may appear different and a formal cover letter will accompany trimester 3 report cards with a key denoting the meaning of each new reporting code (relevant to grades K-8)
- Specific student narratives will accompany report cards with varied reporting codes

I share this with you now to offer you, as parents, the opportunity to provide your child(ren) with reassurance and grace as we enter these final days/weeks of school. As I stated in Wednesday's newsletter, it is our intention to infuse joy into our school final days together. We are focusing on ending our year strong and on a positive note! May we celebrate together and remember student learning is about the experience and not just the report card.

Attentively,  
Ms. Paige Child