



Monday
June 1, 2020

Dear SJB Families,

Over the past few weeks, we've been fielding questions from school parents about SJB's plans for the upcoming school year, which is scheduled to begin on Monday, Aug. 31.

Tonight, 100 parents and teachers joined a digital meeting to learn about our preparations plans for the 2020-21 school year.

I send this message to provide supporting information to the parents who joined the meeting and to make sure that the message of our overall plan is received by those who couldn't make the meeting.

The desire to know what we are going to do and how school is going to look in August is completely understandable. Right now we don't have any directives from the state, county, or Archdiocese for the new school year. We have CDC guidelines, which may change in the next two months. Still, into this uncertainty, we will move forward and develop plans. Our priority is for a full return to school. This could occur in regular classrooms or with students spread out. We will have contingencies for a blended return and a distance-education return.

We want our school families to understand that we will do everything we can to accommodate all of our students for full school days, and we will follow the safety guidelines set by CDC and federal health agencies, state and local governments. Our priority will continue to be the safety of the children and the staff.

We are creating multiple budget contingencies in preparation for adjustments that may occur in enrollment, tuition, income, staffing, and academic programs. We don't expect losses in income. It's our responsibility to plan for them.

A 20-member *Recovery and Reopening Team* will be planning for the new school year. Team members include 11 school parents, the pastor and associate pastor, the school nurse and consulting physician, six teachers and staff members. Preliminary planning



has started.

Seven panels have targeted tasks, guideposts, and deadlines:

1. Maintain communication in consultation with Catholic Schools Recovery and Reopening Task Force of the Archdiocese of Washington and prepare financial contingencies in response to the needs of school families and the school.
2. Review/modify health and safety rules and prepare necessary adjustments to school operations.
3. Evaluate the distance education program and recommend improvements for...
 - student learning
 - family needs
 - communication clarity
 - staff stability
4. Prepare contingencies in...
 - spacing
 - staffing
 - scheduling
5. Devise plan for communication to staff, families, students.
6. Identify resources needed and support for...
 - Programs
 - Technology
 - Medical/Cleaning
 - Distancing (masks, gloves)
 - Testing
7. Ensure that distance and contingency plans include...
 - Prayer/Worship, Weekly Mass, School Mass
 - Special Events including Sacraments and School Traditions
 - Extracurricular Clubs including Band, Chess, STEM
 - Community Service



- Orientation for New Families, Recruitment of New Families

Attached to this email message is an outline of the Recovery Team preparation plan for the new school year. If you have a question about the plan after reading it, submit your question on [this online form](#) and we will post the question and answer.

In coming weeks, we will create more opportunities for feedback from you, our school parents, as well as from our faculty, to guide our decision making. We will want to hear from you about what you think worked well and what you think could be improved.

We will make our best effort to keep you informed. The **Recovery and Reopening Team** communication plan will identify the best ways to communicate to you and ensure that the communication between school and families goes two ways.

We pledge to be forthcoming and honest with you about what we know and don't know, and we will acknowledge that there are uncertainties.

These things we are certain of:

Our talented, mission-oriented teachers and aides will excel in guiding your children and cultivating their total growth and learning in 2020-21.

Our wonderful families will support each other, their teachers, and their school. The things that give the SJB school community its unique positive energy and spirit -- the positive feeling of belonging, the commitment to serve others, the celebration of growth academically, socially, spiritually, and emotionally -- transcend geographic distancing.

Even when the doors shut, the positive spirit of SJB never left. It's been set by our unified love for God and our love for each other, and it is waiting for you and your children when you return to your beloved school at the end of the summer.

Respectfully and Faithfully,

Brian Blomquist



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