



Wednesday  
July 22, 2020

Dear SJB Families,

St. John the Baptist is planning to open fully under CDC guidelines with distance learning offered as an option for all families.

The school is preparing new safety measures for the return to school including...

- Screening each student and staff member each morning before entering the building
- Spreading out students to meet 6-foot distance requirements
- Requiring face coverings of teachers and students in grades 1-8
- Frequent cleaning of classrooms and restrooms after use
- Increasing flow of outside air through the school and holding more classes outside
- Changing student movement at drop-off, pick-up, lunch, and recess

Distance learners will participate via livestream, which means they will follow the regular daily class schedule, participate with their classmates in discussions and activities, and do regular daily classwork and homework.

In school, students will be seated 6 feet apart, facing the same direction and wearing masks. If a classroom is too small for 6-foot distancing for each student, the students will be divided into two groups. The groups will take turns receiving live instruction in the classroom and *livestream* instruction in another room.

The SJB Recovery and Reopening Team on Monday night approved the proposal for a full return with optional distance learning. Members of the team include the SJB Pastor, Father David; several parent-leaders of the School Advisory Board; the school nurse and consulting pediatrician, former and current school parents; several teachers and school administrators.

The Catholic Schools Office of the Archdiocese of Washington must approve the reopening plan before the plan can be implemented. The Archdiocese will notify the school by Monday, Aug. 3. The school plans to present the full proposal to school families on Monday, Aug. 10.

Here are the results of the 183 parent responses to the one-question survey:

- 38 percent (68 votes) preferred a full return to school (5-day)
- 38 percent (69 votes) preferred distance learning
- 24 percent (44 votes) preferred a limited return with distance learning (2-day)



The purpose of the survey was to learn the general reopening preference of school parents. The survey served that purpose and helped the reopening team understand the levels of support – and concern – for a full return to school and distance learning. The reopening choices came from the Archdiocese’s 58-page school reopening guide, presented on Wednesday, July 15.

Team leaders considered a limited return, blended with distance learning, but recommended a **full return with optional distance learning for three reasons:**

1. The school can fully reopen and follow Centers for Disease Control guidelines.
2. The plan meets preferences of most SJB families.
3. SJB has staff, space, and resources to carry out the plan.

On Thursday, July 23, the school will send each family an online form in an effort to determine the number of in-school learners and distance learners that the school should expect. Parents will make a final decision on their child’s learning method in the third week of August. There will be a way to change learning methods. That process will be presented in the next few weeks.

The SJB families will have an opportunity during the week of Aug. 11-14 to ask specific questions about the details of the re-opening plan. The Catholic Schools Office has asked the school to defer questions until the plan has received final approval.

We believe that our families should have an overview of the reopening plan that SJB will safely try for the new school year. We will analyze new information and adjust the plan if we believe a change is best for our community, and we will follow up with accurate information as soon as it is available.

Thank you for patience and support in this challenging time of change and uncertainty. I pray for the health, safety, and happiness of your families this summer.

Respectfully and Faithfully,

Brian Blomquist

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