



Friday  
May 15, 2020

Dear SJB Families,

Please take a few minutes to read the letter to school families from Catholic Schools Secretary William Ryan. In his letter, Mr. Ryan responds to the questions that many of us have about *how school will work* and *how school will look* on the scheduled start date of Monday, August 31.

Mr. Ryan is forthright in acknowledging his uncertainty about the future of the pandemic, the actions and rules that may be imposed by agencies in different jurisdictions and on different levels, whether the Catholic Schools Office of the Archdiocese will follow those rules.

At St. John the Baptist, with this uncertainty in mind, we will try to prepare as best we can. A lead role will be taken by the *SJB Infection Prevention, Response, and Recovery Committee*, which is made up of our pastor, several parents and teachers, our school nurse, and a parent-physician.

The committee will identify and recommend health-related policy changes, craft a preparations check-list, examine and consider several financial and operational contingency models, and determine the most effective ways of communicating to staff, students, and families.

The committee will meet through the summer and make recommendations that...

- keep our students and staff safe
- respond to the unique needs and environment of our SJB community
- preserve the institutional strength of the school



## **Teacher Appreciation Appreciation**

That's not a typo. Last week, SJB faculty members woke up at their homes to find signs in their yards telling the world that "the person who lives here is loved." Thank you, parents! The signs were a kind and thoughtful gesture for Teacher Appreciation Day. Please know that SJB teachers and staff members recognize our good fortune in being a part of supportive, loving community of families.



*Mrs. Dodson is loved.*

## **Awaiting Approval for Book-Materials Exchange**

We have sought approval for a proposal to hold an outside book-materials exchange, and we are waiting for a response from the Catholic Schools Office and from Montgomery County Police. The tentative plan is to have the exchange throughout the afternoon of Friday, June 5. We will notify all families as soon as the plan is approved.

**Correct Email for Kathleen Brown in the Parish Office** – If you have a question about your tuition plan, or if you haven't received a tuition plan, please email Mrs. Brown at this email address: [kbrown@sjbssparish.org](mailto:kbrown@sjbssparish.org)

Emails have bounced back from the address given out last week.

**A General Idea of What's Ahead** – The chart on the next page gives a general idea of what's coming in the next few weeks. There are a few items that will be added as soon as plans are finalized.



Date	Notes
May 18-21	8 <sup>th</sup> Grade Exams Field Day Plan Presented to Students
Friday, May 22	Field Day – Activities for all students, last day of school for 8 <sup>th</sup> graders. Any online classes in PreK-4 finish by noon.
Monday, May 25	Memorial Day -- No School
May 26-29	Summer Work explained to students
June 1-June 4	Grades 5-7 Exams (details to come) Summer Work explained to students in some lower grades.
Friday, June 5	<b>Tentative</b> Book/Materials Exchange School Parking Lot
June 8-9	Online classes continue
June 10	Virtual Mass End of Year Message



## **An Appeal from the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops**

The note below comes from Jennifer Daniels of the USCCB:

*Catholic education has played an important role in lifting many from poverty to a more hopeful future. This mission is in danger as a result of the economic devastation facing many families across the country. Abrupt unemployment and lost income has meant that families suddenly find themselves unable to make the tuition payments that sustain our schools.*

*Additionally, our parishes have lost their Sunday collections with the halt to the public celebration of Masses.*

*Please take a moment to contact your Members of Congress to ask for emergency aid to Catholic schools and our families in the next Covid-19 Legislation package. Our requests include: equitable access to K12 federal funds for Catholic schools, direct funding to families for tuition aid and tax breaks for K12 tuition payments.*

*We encourage you to add your own personal story in the message as well. Catholic schools urgently need help in this time of uncertainty. By speaking with one voice, we can amplify this problem with Congress and provide help for our families. Here is the link to take action -- and please share this with anyone who also wants to help support Catholic Schools.*

**ACTION ALERT**

**LINK:** <https://www.votervoice.net/USCCB/campaigns/74377/respond>

Jennifer Daniels

Associate Director for Public Policy

Secretariat of Catholic Education

United States Conference of Catholic Bishops

mobile: 202-243-9081

Thank you, SJB parents and families, for your steadfast support for your Catholic school.

Respectfully and Faithfully,

Brian Blomquist

Principal

St. John the Baptist Catholic School

12319 New Hampshire Avenue

Silver Spring, Md. 20904

301-622-3076 [sjbsilverspring.org](http://sjbsilverspring.org)