



July 31, 2020

Dear Parents,

With August beginning tomorrow, our first day of school on August 31st is now looking closer! We continue our planning for the safe return of our students and staff to the school building. It is my prayer that we will have a fresh start as the halls echo with student voices again! We do know that we will continue to face new challenges as we start this 2020-2021 school year but with God's help and the guidance of trusted resources like the CDC, the AOD, the MI Safe Start Plan we are preparing for in-person instruction with the ability to transition to remote learning if and when necessary.

St. Joan of Arc School is following the guidance of the Archdiocese of Detroit Catholic Schools Office as we create different approaches based on the status of COVID-19. Please keep in mind that there are two important considerations that are guiding the development of the plans:

- ***Health and Safety*** – Our school plans follow best practices in health and safety using personal protective equipment – including the wearing of face masks as outlined in the [COVID-19 Preparedness Plan for AOD Schools](#) - frequent hand washing and use of sanitizer, and additional cleaning protocols.
- ***Our Commitment to Educational Excellence*** - Regardless of the instructional method, our teachers and staff are dedicated to nurturing and educating your children with a foundation of faith formation and academic excellence.

***Phase 3*** means all students will remain at home and receive online instruction. I have shared the [Phase 4 Plan](#) from the Archdiocese and their ***Phase 5 Plan*** is currently being finalized. We will share ***Phase 5*** when the plan is made available to us.

We currently have two options available to St. Joan of Arc families for the 2020-2021 school year:

1. ***In-person classroom instruction***, Monday through Friday, in our school building.

2. ***Online instruction*** for those students whose parents are hesitant to have their children return to a physical classroom due to health concerns. Students will follow the SJA grade-level curriculum and expectations assigned from the homeroom teacher with another SJA "online" teacher assigned for daytime instruction and support. There will be daily preset times with the online teacher for the major academic subjects according to the different grade levels.

I have included a link at the bottom of this email for a survey so that we have an idea of the number of families that are interested in each option. Your answers will help us with the classroom counts and it will direct us on how many teachers we will need to handle the on-line students. Please go to the [survey page](#) on the website for more information.

I will continue our communications through Flocknote e-mails and our school website. Our plans will become more defined as we work on specifics and updates from the Archdiocese of Detroit Office of Catholic Schools' guidance and/or orders from the State of Michigan.

As always, I want to thank you for placing your trust in our St. Joan of Arc School faculty and staff. I continue to ask that you and your family pray with us that the Holy Spirit guide us all in the many decisions that are being made this summer.

May God continue to bless your family abundantly,  
*Mrs. Kalich*

*"...but with God all things are possible."  
Matthew 19:26*