



# ST. JOSEPH CATHOLIC SCHOOL

Building Wisdom and Faith Through Service to God

August 2020

Dear St. Joseph Catholic School Parents-

We have never before faced a start to the school-year like this, and I humbled by, and could not be more grateful for the out-pouring of support and commitment from our families to do what we need to do to open our school, and to keep our students, teachers, staff and families safe. At no other time in my career have I ever known a circumstance when the community had to pull together for the safety and success of all. Even with all that, I do hope that in spite of the pandemic, you were able to spend time this summer with the people you love.

Along with welcoming you back, I want to update you on initiatives for this school year. Each year, I have sent to you the Parent Satisfaction Survey which forms the basis of our strategic initiatives for the school year. This year the parent survey will be delayed until later in the fall, as the current priority is the safe reopening of our school, and with that, our strategic plan reflects goals created by the health emergency.

The following essential initiatives have been identified, and reflect the commitment to equity for all students:

- Continue strengthening our Catholic identity with a commitment to equity for students on different learning platforms, to ensure and encourage participation by all students in school Mass, Adoration, Stations of the Cross and service projects
- Recognizing the increased need for differentiated lessons necessitated by different learning platforms, further develop our on-going differentiated instruction initiative to meet the diverse learning needs of our students
- Effectively utilize student performance data to drive decisions regarding interventions and resources needed to close learning gaps created by the Spring 2020 shut down
- Introduce Geometry for qualified 8<sup>th</sup> grade students, the culmination of the commitment to expand the middle school math program by 2020-2021

These goals reflect our understanding of the current health crisis, and the need to meet the individual faith formation and learning needs of our students, close learning gaps, while at the same time holding all students to high standards of achievement.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, volunteers are asked to wait until further notice for volunteer opportunities, however, parents are encouraged to comply with the requirements of the Office of Child

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Protection. All adults who will have substantial contact with youth must be compliant with the Child Protection Program. This involves a background check and a Virtus Seminar attendance. The Diocese now has the background check registration online at [https://secure4.arlingtondiocese.org/OPCYP\\_Application/](https://secure4.arlingtondiocese.org/OPCYP_Application/). To find a Virtus Seminar please go to [virtus.org](http://virtus.org). You may attend any seminar in the Arlington Diocese. If you have any questions, please call Beth Covert at (703)880-4357.

Finally, each year, with the help and guidance of the Holy Spirit, our school community embraces a scriptural theme that provides a framework for our school's faith based activities and formation efforts throughout the school year. This year the theme is "*Go to Joseph*," (Gen 41:55) which reflects our understanding that in every need we should seek help and protection from St. Joseph. We go to Joseph and ask his protection and guidance as we start a school year filled with so many unknowns.

Please let me know if you have any questions, or if I can be of further assistance.

*"Go to Joseph,"* (Gen 41:55)

Denise Rutledge  
Principal- St. Joseph Catholic School