



St. John Eudes School
Chatsworth, CA

Dear SJE Families,

I hope this email finds you well as the end of the summer is soon approaching and we are looking forward to another school year. This letter is to inform you of recent updates that have occurred since the last correspondence you received dated July 18, 2020. During this time of uncertainty, I understand that many of you have questions regarding the reopening of the school and what that will look like. I would like to assure you that **Starting the School Year Smart Safety Committee (SSYSSC)** has been working vigorously in creating a plan to assist the school in providing the safest environment possible for students, whether you decide to return to campus, or remain online. Below you will find a series of information that I hope answers those questions you may have.

SURVEY DATA

We wanted to hear from our families regarding how they felt about their remote learning experience during the 2019-2020 school year. Most importantly, we were interested in hearing about what worked and how we can improve our remote learning program. Therefore, we created the SJE Year End Remote Learning Program Parent Survey. After close review of the data received from the families that responded to the survey, we would like to share the results with you.

- **From Grades TK-2:** 68% of parents found SJE's remote learning program to be effective or highly effective. For the last 8 weeks of school, 79% of parents stated that the daily workload was just right, or they wanted more. 75% of parents indicated that they would describe the amount of daily screen time usage for their child as just right or wanted more. Lastly, 77% of parents stated that their child felt that the daily live online sessions, like Zoom with their teacher, were either just right or wanted more.
- **From Grades 3-8:** 78% of parents found SJE's remote learning program to be effective or highly effective. For the last 8 weeks of school, 79% of parents stated that the daily workload was just right or wanted more. 57% of parents indicated that they would describe the amount of daily screen time usage for their child was just right or wanted more. Lastly, 78% of parents stated that their child felt that the daily live online sessions, like Google Meet with their teacher, were either just right or wanted more.

WAIVER

There is currently a provision in the governor's public health order that allows elementary schools to apply for a waiver to re-open. This waiver requires the approval of both the Archdiocesan Superintendent and the local public health department in order to be removed from the state's watchlist. However, as of August 4th, Dr. Barbara Ferrer, the Director of Public Health of Los Angeles County, will no longer entertain a waiver from schools in the county due to the current state of public health conditions.

REMOTE LEARNING PLAN

Based on the positive feedback from all our families on how remote learning went in the spring, as well as the much appreciated support from the SSYSSC, we have come up with a plan that includes protocols and procedures for all learning environments. That information, as well as continued discussions as a faculty internally, has heavily influenced our new Remote Learning Plan.

Grades TK-2

For grades TK-2, their primary platform will be Seesaw and will be using Zoom for synchronous instruction (i.e. live instruction; whole/small group work; teacher/aide guided interactions). On occasion, asynchronous instruction (i.e. independent work; instructional videos) may occur.

Grades 3-8

For grades 3-8, their primary platform will be Google Classroom and will be using Google Meet for synchronous instruction (i.e. live instruction, small group collaboration). On occasion, asynchronous instruction (i.e. independent work with teacher assistance as needed) may occur.

School Hours

Each morning students are to be present in their virtual classroom no later than 7:55 am. Attendance will be taken each morning by the homeroom teacher. If your child will be absent, please report your student absences to the school office by 9:00 am.

- TK-K dismissal Monday-Thursday will be 2:30 pm and 12:30 pm on Fridays.
- Gr.1-8 dismissal Monday-Thursday will be 2:50 pm and 12:45 pm on Fridays

Early dismissal on Fridays allows teachers to have time for faculty meetings and to prep for the following week.

Expectations

To promote that Remote Learning is still a proper school day, the following is a list of expectations. This will help the students to realize that they are here to learn and to assist in keeping them in the best mindset for learning.

1. All students will be required to wear their school uniform polo while attending class remotely. We will have virtual school spirit dress days that must follow the alternate free dress guidelines in the SJE handbook.
2. The camera must be on and microphone muted during remote learning unless instructed otherwise.
3. Students must demonstrate professional courtesy by having their face visible and actively participate when appropriate during class time.
4. Just like in the classroom, there will be no eating or drinking, other than water, during remote learning.
5. Students should be properly seated at a desk or table and not reclining in bed, so that students can have a place to write, stay alert, and be ready to learn.
6. Materials and supplies need to be readily available.
7. Distractions like music, TV, games, and other devices must be avoided.

Behavior

1. Students are expected to behave as if they are in school presently. If students do not demonstrate suitable digital citizenship, they will be violating the school's Electronic Use Policy/Contract and appropriate disciplinary action may occur.
2. Each student must respect everyone's virtual space. If any inappropriate distracting behavior occurs, the student will be given a warning. If the undesired behavior continues, the student will be removed from the class and marked absent, as that student will lose the privilege of attending the remote learning session. Students will be expected to complete any missed assignments independently.

ORIENTATIONS FOR ALL GRADES PRIOR TO THE START OF SCHOOL

We understand that remote learning is not the ideal way to start the school year. Building relationships between teachers, students, and parents/guardians is extremely important. To help facilitate the transition to virtual classrooms, the teachers will have a virtual orientation for the parents and students to discuss classroom expectations, procedures, Learning Management System (LMS) platform, grading policies, etc. Please note that this will take the place of the second hour of Back to School Night where you would traditionally be welcomed to the teacher's classrooms for orientations. The Zoom meetings will be scheduled as follows:

- Grades TK-3: Wednesday, August 19th

- TK: 8:30-9:15 am
- K: 9:30-10:15 am
- 1: 10:30-11:15 am
- 2: 11:30-12:15 pm
- 3: 12:30-1:15 pm

- Grades 4-8: Thursday, August 20th

- 4: 8:30-9:15 am
- 5: 9:30-10:15 am
- 6: 10:30-11:15 am
- 7: 11:30-12:15 pm
- 8: 12:30-1:15 pm

CLASSROOM SUPPLY DROP OFF/TEXTBOOK PICK-UP & MEET THE TEACHER

Due to the fact that we are unable to physically meet, we will be posting sign-ups on SchoolSpeak for 10-minute appointments in order to be able to drop-off classroom supplies/pick-up textbooks and needed materials. We are requesting that one parent/guardian and their student be present so that they may have an opportunity to meet their teacher and see their classroom. Sign-ups will be on Wednesday, August 19th and Thursday, August 20th, from 2:00pm-4:30pm and Friday August 21st from 10:00am-12:30pm.

- Items to drop off at school would include paper towels, baby wipes, Kleenex/Facial tissue, Clorox/Disinfecting wipes, multi-use copy paper, colored copy paper, etc.
- Items to remain at home for now would include pencils, pens, crayons, glue sticks, scissors, lined paper, etc.

YEAR-LONG REMOTE LEARNING OPTION

We are sensitive to the needs of those families who may not be ready to return to a traditional in-person setting once permitted by state and local authorities. For those families who decide to continue remote learning from home, they will still be able to receive a faith filled SJE education synchronously for the entire duration of the 2020-2021 school year.

IN-PERSON DIRECT INSTRUCTION OPTION

Upon approval from state and local agencies, the school looks forward to welcoming back students with direct in-person instruction. For this reason, the SSYSSC has met over the course of the summer to come up with a rigorous plan to ensure the well-being and safety of all students, faculty, and staff. Once that time comes, please know that there is a plan in place that includes, but is not limited to the following:

1. During morning drop-off, temperature checks and a short health questionnaire will be given before exiting the car.
2. Students, teachers, and staff must wear face masks at all times.
 - 2 SJE face masks will be provided for all students and school personnel.
3. Hands-free sensor hand sanitizer stations in all classrooms.
4. Desks spaced according to state and local authority's guidelines to ensure as safe of a classroom learning environment as possible.
5. Plexiglass privacy shields for each student's desk.
6. Face shields provided to all students and teachers to provide an extra layer of safety.
7. Hands-free sensor antibacterial hand soap dispensers and hands-free sensor single use paper towel dispensers in all bathrooms.
8. Temperature checks before lunch.
9. Action plan in the event a student/employee becomes ill (please refer to table below).
10. Limiting campus access.
11. Enhanced school cleaning on site per CDC guidelines.

PERSONNEL

St. John Eudes warmly welcomes the following new faculty members:

- Mrs. Paige Wilton - 5th Grade
- Ms. Allison Martin - 7th Grade Homeroom, ELA 6, Accelerated Math 7, Social Studies 6 & 7, Fine Arts 6-8
- Ms. Amanda El Khoury - 8th Grade Homeroom, ELA 7 & 8, Accelerated Math 8
- Mr. Ryan Spencer - PE TK-8, Social Studies 8, and Athletic Director

COVID-19 ACTION PLAN

SSYSSC has developed an action plan in the event a student, faculty, or staff member displays symptoms, becomes ill, or comes in close contact with a confirmed COVID-19 case. Please refer to the chart on the following page for how the school will respond and communicate accordingly.

COVID-19 ACTION PLAN

	Student or Staff with:	Action	Communication
1	<p>COVID-19 Symptoms:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Fever of 100.4+, ● Cough ● Shortness of breath ● Difficulty breathing ● Sore throat ● Congestion ● Runny nose ● Nausea ● Vomiting ● Diarrhea ● New loss of taste or smell <p>Symptoms Screening: Per CA School Sector Specific Guidelines</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Send home ● Quarantine for 14 days from onset of symptoms ● Clearance from Primary Care Physician (PCP) School/ classroom remains open 	No action needed
2	Close Contact (+) with a confirmed COVID -19 case	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Send home ● Quarantine for 14 days from last exposure ● Clearance from Primary Care Physician (PCP) 	Consider school community notification of known contact.
3	Confirmed COVID-19 case infection	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Notify the Los Angeles Archdiocese ● Notify local health department ● Isolate case and exclude from school for 14 days from symptom onset or test date ● Identify contacts (+), quarantine & exclude exposed contacts (likely entire cohort (++)) for 14 days after the last date the case was present as school while infectious ● Recommend testing of contacts, prioritize symptomatic contacts (but will not shorten 14-day quarantine) ● Disinfection and cleaning of classroom and primary spaces where case spent significant time ● School remains open 	School community notification of a known case
4	Test negative after symptoms	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● May return to school 3 days after symptoms resolve ● School / classroom remain open 	Consider school community notification of prior awareness of testing

(+) A contact is defined as a person who is < 6 feet from a case for 15> minutes. In some school situations, it may be difficult to determine whether individuals have met this criterion and an entire cohort, classroom, or other group may need to be considered exposed, particularly if people have spent time together indoors.

(++) A cohort is a stable group with fixed membership that stays together for all courses and activities (e.g., lunch, recess, etc.) and avoids contact with other persons or cohorts.

EXTENDED DAY PROGRAM

The school is planning to offer EDP, however space will be limited to approximately 40 students and no drop-ins will be accepted. Registration will be on a first come, first serve basis. Outside play will be encouraged and permitted, as long as it is not impacted by inclement weather. The sharing of toys and play equipment will not be allowed in order to maintain a safe, clean environment.

AFTER SCHOOL SPORTS

As of August 4th, the County of Los Angeles Department of Health released guidelines for the Reopening Protocol for Youth Sports Leagues. There is no way to know when contact sports or games will be permitted, but activities such as conditioning, strength training, and skills-based practice may be an option if physical distance is maintained and face masks are worn. As soon as Los Angeles area Catholic schools are provided guidance from the CYO (Catholic Youth Organization) league, the school will move forward with plans to offer an after school sports program if there still is interest and it can be provided in a safe manner.

SERVICE HOURS

Currently, there is no plan to reduce the number of hours. The faculty and staff are optimistic that the school will be able to open safely to direct in-person instruction at some point during the school year. In the meantime, service opportunities are available through the Church during evening masses, at home projects for teachers, and upon return, the school will need assistance with yard supervision. Safety protocols will be followed for any visitors or volunteers coming onto campus, but those opportunities will be very limited to protect everyone. Rest assured, that the administration will regularly review the current conditions and, if needed, will re-evaluate the requirements as the school year progresses.

ZOOM WITH THE PRINCIPAL

Please join me on Tuesday, August 11th at 6:30 pm for my Zoom session to review the In-Person Safety Protocols/Start of the School Year letter. I will be able to expand on our plans and procedures in further detail and answer any questions that remain.

Please be advised that all the above referenced plans and protocols are subject to updates or modifications as our COVID reality is extremely fluid. St. John Eudes School is committed to keeping all stakeholders apprised of these changes and is looking forward to our continued partnership in educating and supporting all students. Thank you for having faith in our school community and for entrusting your children to us. I pray that you and your family continue to enjoy the final days of summer before school begins on Tuesday, August 25th. Stay healthy and stay safe.

Yours in Christ,



Mrs. Lizette Strom
Interim Principal