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Dear Parents/Guardians:

August 2020

Welcome to the 2020–2021 School year!

Parents and Caregivers are a crucial part of a student's success and we invite you to join us for another successful school year! Please note these important dates:

SJSD will open on Thursday September 10, 2020 REMOTELY – At HOME on Zoom* until Monday September 21, 2020

Beginning on Monday September 21, 2020* (for the 2020-2021 school year) - You must choose ONE option.

Option # 1	Mondays – Wednesdays- Fridays	Students will be on campus at SJSD
	Tuesdays and Thursdays	Students will be remote at home (ZOOM)*
Option #2	Mondays – Fridays	100% remote -ZOOM only

*ZOOM information will be sent you by email. (Please be sure Joanne and Melissa have your email address.)

MARK YOUR CALENDARS! We will have 2 Parent/Caregiver Nights this year.

- **Thursday, October 22, 2020 6:00 – 8:00 PM on Zoom**

Please be sure to participate in our Parent/Caregiver Nights. You will meet your child's teacher(s) and get to see where your child plays and learns. It is a great way to meet the staff of SJSD.

How can I communicate with my child's teacher?

During the school year, if you wish to leave a message for your child's teacher, please call the school (718-828-9000) or email. You can always schedule a meeting or a classroom visit by contacting the Social Worker assigned to your child (Melissa Negron-Sims or Joanne Maiolo). You can ask any teacher for their email.

We especially encourage you to participate in the development of your child's Individualized Education Plan (IEP). IEP meetings are scheduled once a year. You will be contacted regarding the meeting date and time. This is a critical way to meet with the School District and SJSD staff to discuss your child's educational program for the school year.

Please be sure to attend this very important meeting.

We are restricting access to the building this year to minimize exposure and risk of exposure in this new COVID19 environment. Entering the building will be on a very limited basis and by appointment whenever possible.

You have the right to review your child's records at any time. If you wish to do this, please contact Janet Gordon (ext. 221), who will explain our procedures and the school's policy regarding the confidentiality of personally identifiable data in school records.

How can I get support for myself and my family during the school year?

Welcome to the SJSD Parent Education Group and Sign Language Class...a weekly resource for you.

Reminder: **The Parent Education Group meets EVERY Tuesday during the school year.** The meeting this year will be on ZOOM and will include a discussion group that covers various topics (audition, communication, parenting a child who is deaf, resources for your family and your deaf child, etc.). Our goal is to provide support to any SJSJ parent able to attend. Meetings include a weekly sign language class. Come take advantage of this free resource led by our very capable Social Workers Melissa Negron-Sims and Joanne Maiolo. Be a part of our community! We will be adding an evening meeting as well from 6:00 – 7:00PM. Details to follow.

Time on Task – Protecting teaching and learning time and our health.

We work very hard to make sure students are 'on task' as much as possible. We are unable to host any birthday parties or events with outside visitors this year. We are very sorry about this and look forward to brighter days when we can celebrate with you in our much loved St/ Joseph's way!

No food, snacks or drinks from home will be allowed into the building this year. Please do not send them in. Thank you.

ENCLOSED:

- 1) Authorization Form for Release of your Child to someone other than a parent/guardian** – Please fill the enclosed form and return with your child on the first day of school or mail it to the school (Attn: Director's Office) . **This is critical information we need to have on file.** Please update any changes in phone numbers, etc. as they happen. To do this online, we will be sending you a link through email to fill out to make this easier. Please reply ASAP.

- 2) Daily Health Screening Form/Hand Sanitizer** - Please fill out the enclosed form and return by mail before 9/21/20 or send in with your child on the first IN PERSON day of school. **Your child will not be permitted to remain in school without this completed form.** To do this online, we will be sending you a link through email to fill out to make this easier. Please reply ASAP.

Please be advised of the following:

CLINIC VISITS –We would appreciate it if you notify us **well in advance (2-3 days)** whether by note or telephone call when your child will be absent because of clinic appointments.

SCHOOL BUS - Please ask your child's bus driver for the telephone number of the Bus Company or the bus yard/garage that transports your child. **On school mornings, questions related to bus delays or general bus service should be made directly to OPT or the bus company transporting your child not SJSJ.**

Bus delayed, bus problems? Please call OPT (718-392-8855) or the bus company (ask your driver or matron for a contact phone number), to get help. Thank you.

EMERGENCY SCHOOL CLOSINGS - When New York City Schools are closed, St. Joseph's School is closed. When local weather conditions make it necessary for **only** St. Joseph's to close (but not NYC schools), an announcement of "School Closed - St. Joseph's School for the Deaf" will be available on the school's website (www.sjsdny.org) and on **Bronx News 12 (Cablevision)**. This message can also be received in English and Spanish by calling the school at (718) 828-9000. School closings and events are also available on twitter @sjsdny. If you have a twitter account, please add us.

Medical Clearance – Reminder: All student immunizations MUST BE UP TO DATE. Students missing immunizations **will not be allowed to attend school** until they are current. **Please see your doctor for details.**

I look forward to working with you this year. Wishing you a safe and restful remainder of the summer!

Sincerely,

Debra Arles
Executive Director

Remember to visit the school website for the most current postings & resources!

www.sjsdny.org

Please note, St. Joseph's School for the Deaf does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, creed, disability, national or ethnic origin in its admission policy, administration of its policies, athletics and other school administered program or in its employment practices.

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