

July 27, 2020

Dear SJP Community,

We hope you are all staying safe and healthy.

As you know, plans for NY public school reopenings are due to the Department of Education by July 31, and you may have seen that the Archdiocese today published its own guidelines. As a result, you may be hearing about different submission plans in different schools and districts as this process moves forward.

This process is fluid with a lot of moving parts, and we appreciate your patience and understanding. ***To provide what solid ground we can, we will host a Virtual Town Hall on Thursday, July 30, 2020 at 7:00 pm where we will share the preliminary draft of SJP's Reopening Plan and provide an update on what Fall may look like.*** We will provide a written summary of key points following the Town Hall.

There will be a second town hall the second week of August to answer any questions from the first town hall and any updates from the Department of Health, Department of Education, and the Archdiocese of New York (all of which factor into our Reopening Plan). Please see more detail about the Virtual Town Halls in the "What's Next" section of this email.

Please know that we continue to work very hard on our Reopening Plan and will do our best to provide important information as it becomes available. Our timelines are as follow:

- Submission to the Department of Health (DOH) is due to affirm that Saints John and Paul School have read and understands our obligation to operate in accordance with the DOH guidance.
- The date has not yet been set for submission for Religious and Private Schools to the Department of Education, but it is expected to be in early August.
- Saints John and Paul School Plan must be accepted by Central Westchester District Superintendent for the Archdiocese of New York prior to submitting to the Department of Education.

This week's updates:

Updates - New York State and Archdiocese

- **New York State** issued school reopening guidance for public schools on July 16. [Click here](#) to connect to the page with the announcement and Guidance. The Guidance has an Executive Summary in the beginning of the document.
- **The Archdiocese** [released guidance to schools and families on Monday, July 27, 2020](#). Note that this is general guidance for the entire Archdiocese. SJP will be submitting its specific plan to New York State and the Archdiocese as noted above.
- **Survey** - The survey you received last week will help inform both the Archdiocese and SJP's plans for reopening.
- **New York State** is expected to announce decisions about school openings the first week in August based on COVID-19 cases.

As a reminder: as a Catholic Archdiocese School in New York State, SJP will follow the guidelines of New York State and the Archdiocese and submit plans as required accordingly. However, please also note that both NYS and the Archdiocese have schools under their jurisdiction of many different sizes and needs, so we are in constant communication regarding our school's particular situation.

SJP Reopening Plan

- SJP continues to formulate our Reopening Plan based on the issued Guidance and requirements. As we have stated before, SJP is guided by the belief that the best place for our students is in school in the fall. We continue to formulate our plan to maximize time in the classroom, taking into account health and safety guidelines and measures for our students and faculty. That said, we are planning and preparing for several options (ex. all 5 days in school, a hybrid schedule with some days in school and some virtual, alternate scheduling etc.) as guidelines and policy remain fluid. Please also know that we want *all* families to feel supported through this process. You will hear more at Thursday's Virtual Town Hall.
- Here are some brief updates on the Reopening planning:
 - Continuing to measure the school to map out potential uses for classrooms
 - Pricing options to improve the school - everything from touchless water fountains to cleaning products options to air flow

- Planning logistics of daily routines including pick up and drop off, locations of entry, how to conduct wellness/temperature checks, etc.
- Pricing and sourcing critical technology for students and teachers to support in class and virtual learning, as well as enrichment software and development of Google Classroom platforms
- Developing our academic planning and scheduling, with a focus on continuing to build upon the strength of the student-centered SJP experience for our students

What's Next

- **July 30th Virtual Town Hall:** Mrs. Gianni will hold a Town Hall via Zoom on Thursday July 30, 2020 at 7:00 pm with SJP parents. The purpose of the Town Hall is to update SJP parents on the draft Reopening Plans and key measures the SJP Administration and Task Force have been taking to prepare for the Fall.
- **August Virtual Town Hall:** The second week of August, we will hold another Town Hall, and offer an opportunity to submit questions prior to the meeting. The meeting will then address questions and provide updates.
- **Survey:** As mentioned, you recently received a survey about Reopening from the Archdiocese. Please complete this at your earliest convenience.
- **Resources:** Continue to check out the [SJP web site](#) for updates on the school year and Task Force work, including some key resources for you and your families during this time.

More to follow. We know that communication is very important and we will continue to provide ongoing updates. As always, please feel free to communicate any questions or concerns to Mrs. Gianni at fgianni@sipschool.org

Thank you for your support.

