

A Note from the Headmaster

ST JOHN THE BELOVED ACADEMY



AUGUST 23

Dear Parents and Friends,

We look forward to seeing you soon! Meanwhile we need to provide an important note regarding our health protocols.

While maintaining our spirit of trust and active cooperation with our families—and confident that those thoughtfully planning to not have their children wear a mask while indoors at school are also planning to actively maintain health protocols and take full advantage of the extra benefits at the school enabling a healthy environment—we need to request an additional step for those who do not wish their children to wear a mask while indoors at school.

Parents will need to fill out a mask exemption form for either a health/medical reason or a deeply held religious belief reason. We are aware that this will be a concern for a number of you. I can assure you that our school leadership and our pastor, Father Pollard, will make ourselves available, especially this week, to help explain the process and answer questions.

And because our preschool program is part of the school and not a "stand-alone" preschool, these exemption forms will also need to be filled out for our preschool students.

Please see the forms below and note that the medical exemption form requires a signature from your licensed health care provider, including medical doctors, psychologists, and licensed family therapists. The religious form requires a statement of a deeply held religious and spiritual nature. The medical exemption form and religious exemption form then will be reviewed, agreed to, and approved or not by school leadership and the pastor and then shared with the diocese.

Please be assured of our care for discretion, confidentiality, parent's roles as the primary caretakers and educators of their children, and our willingness to make time to help with any questions and to be as swift and thorough in process as possible.

As we think about such things, it is good to remember our success last year, to stir hope for a year of learning, faith and adventure, and to be mindful of some of the extraordinary elements (and blessings) in place at the school that have helped maintain and will help cultivate a healthy, happy environment.

These elements include:

- A very responsible and active parent community committed to helping each other and building a culture of learning, love, and faith.
- A thoughtful and helpful Office of Catholic Schools and Diocese that enables the school to be what it is and to pursue our mission.
- Classrooms equipped with at least one state-of-the-art Austin Air Systems running at all times—we are also purchasing many additional ones.
- Large, high-ceiling classrooms that have two doors and easy access to an outdoor courtyard and/or tent, windows for additional ventilation, and enables physical distancing of at least 3 feet. (We will often distance more than 3 feet and as much as possible.)
- Additional classroom and building space that enables us to often break up our classes into groups of 10 - 15 students.

- Plenty of recess, often in in open green spaces (2-3 each day), and outside time, including classes outdoors when feasible.

I apologize for this inconvenience and rush, but please attend to this matter quickly if you are seeking an exemption. If you have any questions or concerns regarding this document or the accommodations, please do not hesitate to contact us.

With affection and kind regards,

Jeff

Jeffrey P. Presberg
Headmaster, St. John the Beloved Academy



SJBA opening plan 2021-2022 & Addendum Note A.pdf



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