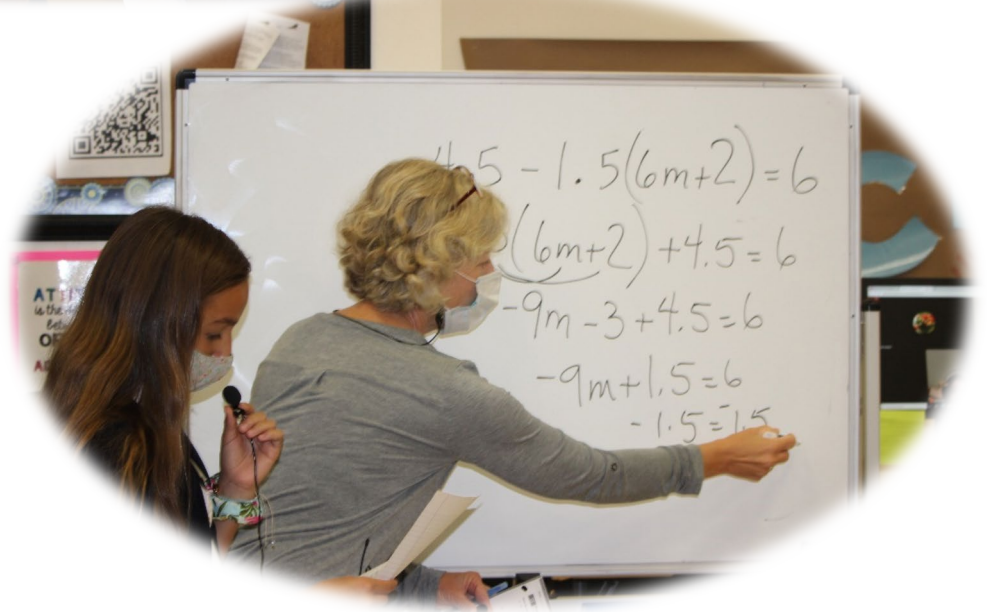


Better Together!

Together we PRAY, Together we STAY.

School Opening Plan, August 18, 2021



St. John Paul II Catholic School

Southern Pines, NC

*"Do not be afraid. Do not be satisfied with
mediocrity. Put out into the deep and let down
your nets for a catch."* St. John Paul II

Our Mission

St. John Paul II Catholic School is dedicated to preparing the hearts and minds of our students for spiritual growth, academic excellence, personal responsibility, and service to others according to the teaching of the Roman Catholic faith.

We believe...

God is the beginning and end of human existence. The belief that God is the source and end of human existence is the fundamental rule framing the grammar of Catholic schooling.

Education is essentially a moral endeavor. In this moral context, being an educator denotes participating in a pastoral ministry; that is, devoting one's life and using one's God-given talents to shape not only the minds, but more importantly, the hearts of the youth who have been entrusted by parents to the teacher's care.

Parents bear primary responsibility for their child's education. The duties and rights of parents in the education of youth are primarily a moral obligation, which binds parents to educate their children in the knowledge of religion and good habits as well as piety toward God.

The subject is the student. The unique, individual human person is the proper focus of all curriculum and instruction.

Teaching is an intimate communication between souls. It is the intimate communication between two souls that stimulates the student to see and to experience, through the teacher's words, acts, and affect, the incarnation of God's love active in the student's own life.

Jacobs, Richard M. 1977. *The Grammar of Catholic Schooling*. NCEA. Washington DC, USA.

This is why we do what we do!
This is why we are BETTER TOGETHER!



Principal's Statement

Dear School Families,

We are excited to welcome you and your children back to our campus for the 2021-2022 school year. The St. John Paul II COVID-19 Task force has been working closely with me to ensure a safe return to school. Our Task-force consists of the SJPII school administrators, teachers, parents, and three local physicians. The plan was created (and will be modified as needed) utilizing guidelines from the American Academy of Pediatrics, the CDC, the NCDHHS and its ([Public Health Toolkit](#)) and Raleigh diocesan guidelines.

Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI declared in his social encyclical *Caritas in veritate* "Charity in truth, to which Jesus Christ bore witness by his earthly life and especially by his death and resurrection, is the principal driving force behind the authentic development of every person and of all humanity. Love — caritas — is an extraordinary force which leads people to opt for courageous and generous engagement in the field of justice and peace. It is a force that has its origin in God, Eternal Love and Absolute

Truth". With this reality in mind, we act in charity and truth by behaving responsibly toward ourselves and one another. At the same time, we know that compassion and care of others must be grounded in reality, common sense, and what is truly good for the whole human person and the community. Remain calm, use common sense, be creative, stay unified, and expect change.

With prayer and guidance, our COVID-19 Taskforce believes we are better together! We believe that we grow in our relationship with God by learning about God's creation: the world, the people in it, and ourselves. We are always learning. We believe that we learn better together.

During these uncertain and changing times, St. John Paul II has 3 Levels of academic instruction ready to implement.

- Level ONE

On-campus teaching and learning, physical distancing with all students wearing masks while in the buildings.

- Level TWO

School will operate at 50% capacity, alternating A-day/ B-day by family. There will be remote live streaming of classes for those not in school on the assigned day.

- Level THREE
All remote learning

As of today, our plan is to return with Level ONE instruction. We invite all students to return to school, utilizing all of the buildings we have on campus. Per the guidelines of the American Academy of Pediatrics, the CDC, the NCDHHS and the Diocese of Raleigh, the students will maintain physical distance and follow good hygiene protocols while in school. Please continue to read this document for further information.

Parents are the primary educators of their children, and we value your collaboration and the trust you place in us. We will continue to deliver an unmatched education where our priorities are placed on the interactions between students, the faculty, and each other. The continued spiritual and academic growth of every member of our school family is paramount.

Caritas in veritate,

John J. Donohue III

John J Donohue III, Principal



"Remain calm, use common sense, be creative, stay unified, and expect change."
Principal Donohue

WHAT IS THE SCHOOL'S OVERALL GOAL IN RETURNING FOR THE 2021-2022 SCHOOL YEAR?

Our optimal learning environment in the faith-filled classroom has proven to be effective in reaching our mission of educating the whole child. We have a responsibility to meet the spiritual, academic, social, emotional and physical needs of every student. During these challenging times, we have seen the importance of social and emotional support. Ensuring safety for all stakeholders is a top priority and equipping our school with necessary resources for students to return to campus is our goal. The ability to meet individual student needs to fulfill our mission is achieved through our teachers' instructional approach. We are committed to providing a high caliber of education with a focus on faith and academic rigor. We will make every effort to meet the need for change in instructional delivery without sacrificing quality. Our focus will remain on meeting our mission of building intentional disciples of Christ.

WHAT CONDITIONS WOULD ALLOW THE SCHOOL TO RETURN SAFELY TO CAMPUS?

It is the intention of St. John Paul II Catholic School to open in a way that is safe, that maximizes in-person instruction to all students, and which guarantees our families the excellence they desire. The needs of our school differ from those in the surrounding public schools. Guidelines have been formulated for school leaders to effectively implement measures and protocols that will increase safety and reduce health-related risk on our campuses. The school is providing a detailed plan with resources that will clearly outline the safety protocols in place for your child to return to campus.



HOW WILL THE CURRICULUM BE PRESENTED TO MY CHILD DURING WHAT IS EXPECTED TO BE AN UNPREDICTABLE SCHOOL YEAR?

Any decision to shift instruction throughout the year is made after consultation with the Diocese and the SJPII COVID-19 Taskforce and in light of the mandates and guidelines provided by the CDC and the NCDHHS. The variability of the school year ahead requires all schools to be effectively prepared for changes to the instructional environment. The levels of instruction include our preference for face-to-face in person instruction as recommended by the American Academy of Pediatrics. This level will incorporate suggested physical distancing measures and the use of masks to reduce health risk of exposure. We also plan to implement special sanitizing measures within each classroom and building to maintain clean surfaces for students.

Level ONE: Every effort will be made within guidelines to keep our students engaged and re-energized throughout the school day, including safe outdoor learning in designated areas and outdoor breaks when needed.

Level TWO: Face-to-face and remote learning instruction, is paired to increase physical distancing measures by reducing the number of students on campus.

Level THREE: Through remote learning we will provide instruction safely from home.

The continuum of instructional models allows for flexibility as we enter an unpredictable school year and ensures continuous improvement in education for all students.



WHAT MEASURES ARE BEING PUT INTO PLACE TO REDUCE HEALTH-RELATED RISK AT THE SCHOOL?



Cleaning & Disinfecting

Each aspect of the school day has been taken into consideration when determining cleaning/disinfecting measures. Classrooms and support services will provide the necessary resources to increase cleaning procedures for high-touch surfaces, common areas (i.e. hallways and bathrooms), and individual rooms. The school will be following the CDC and the NCDHHS guidelines to ensure that all areas are safe from the first arrival of a student to the last departures.

Health & Safety Training



Before and during the school year, **training will be provided** to administration, teachers, staff and students. Training will include how to effectively implement new safety protocols within the school. There will be an emphasis on good hygiene for students to reduce health risk. Health and safety training will facilitate changes needed to keep all stakeholders safe. Registered Nurses from the school community will provide the training.



Symptoms and Screenings

The NCDHHS does not recommend daily Covid-19 symptom screening for all students at school entry. Parents are asked to keep children home from school if they are ill or exhibiting any of the following symptoms:

- **Fever** (100.4) or higher
- **Sore Throat**
- **Cough** (or change in cough if student is allergic or asthmatic)
- **Difficulty Breathing**
- **New loss of taste or smell**
- **Diarrhea or vomiting**
- **New onset of severe headache**

Should a student display symptoms at school, they will be screened and isolated until they can be picked up by a parent/guardian.

Physical Distancing



As recommended by the CDC and the American Academy of Pediatrics, all schools will **increase physical distancing** among students and staff to the best of their ability. Masks will be worn by all students and staff while indoors and within 3 feet of another person.



Staff Requirements

Face Coverings & Classroom Cleaning: Teachers and support staff will be required to wear face coverings throughout the school day, when physical distancing cannot be maintained. Individual classroom teachers with the help of the students will be responsible for wiping down high-touch surfaces throughout the day.

Should it be required due to a transition of classes, a thorough cleaning of the classroom will be completed before a new group (cohort) of students arrives.

Face Coverings



Knowing the sensitivity and importance of face coverings, at this time, all students will be required to wear face coverings upon arrival to school and while in the school buildings.

Staff/faculty members are required to wear a face covering when physical distancing measures cannot be maintained. The requirements regarding face coverings may be revised, up to the beginning and through the end of the school year.

The St. John Paul II Covid-19 Task force will re-evaluate these policies, procedures, and protocols every 30 days to remain current with any new information. We remain vigilant in analyzing all new and current data with regard to the virus.

AS A PARENT, WHAT ARE MY RESPONSIBILITIES TO ENSURE THE SAFETY OF MY CHILD AND OTHERS?

Screenings: Parents should conduct a simple home based screening before sending their child to school. If your child has any of these symptoms, please keep them home:

- ❖ • **Fever** (100.4) or higher
- ❖ • **Sore Throat**
- ❖ • **Cough** (or change in cough if student is allergic or asthmatic)
- ❖ • **Difficulty Breathing**
- ❖ • **New loss of taste or smell**
- ❖ • **Diarrhea or vomiting**
- ❖ • **New onset of severe headache**

Also, please take into consideration that if another member of your family is sick, and your child is feeling under-the-weather, keeping your child at home can prevent others from becoming sick.

Face Coverings: Knowing the sensitivity and importance of face coverings, all students will be required to wear a face covering upon arrival and entering the school buildings. Staff/faculty members are required to wear a face covering when social distancing measures cannot be maintained. The requirements regarding face coverings may be revised, up to the beginning and through the end of the school year.

Handwashing: Routine and proper handwashing can significantly reduce the transmission of germs. The school will be reviewing proper handwashing procedures with students. Please reinforce the practice of handwashing at home. Children washing their hands as part of their morning routine, before leaving for school can help reduce the risk of spread. Students will have multiple opportunities throughout the day to wash their hands and hand sanitizing stations will be placed throughout the campus.

Family Decision: We all yearn for a sense of normalcy that allows your child to be with friends while learning and playing together. Protecting your child is your first priority. We understand. We want you to know we are doing all we can to provide a safe, engaging learning environment that meets your child's emotional, educational, and physical needs.

Making the decision to return to school or to remain within the safety of the home while attending school is very important. We recommend having individual conversations with your family and school administration about any general health concerns, including anxiety and/or a compromised immune system within your family.



HOW WILL WE CONTINUE TO ENGAGE OUR STUDENTS IN THEIR SPIRITUAL DEVELOPMENT?

Our Catholic identity is woven within the lessons that are delivered by our mission-driven teachers. No matter what model of instruction we may find ourselves operating within, we will continue to practice our faith daily. We will gather when feasible with physical distancing measures enforced. If virtual learning is required, spiritual development will be at the core of our instruction. Knowing the importance of Holy Mass, sacramental preparation, daily prayer and living our faith, together we will continue to walk as disciples of Jesus.





ARE VISITORS AND VOLUNTEERS ALLOWED ON CAMPUS?

At this time, visitors will have limited access to the school buildings during the day, as well as outside of school hours. This is to reduce the risk of exposure to our students and staff. Essential volunteers must be approved by the school administration. Schools may provide alternative means of serving our communities. Face coverings must be worn at all times inside the building.

WHAT MEASURES WILL BE TAKEN TO KEEP STUDENTS ENERGIZED AND ENGAGED WHILE MAINTAINING PHYSICAL DISTANCE FROM THEIR PEERS AND OTHERS?

Our optimal learning environments may look different, but our teachers and staff have lesson plans in place to provide both exciting and engaging lessons for student on campus. There will be exercise and re-energizing activities planned for the students. Some outdoor lessons will be incorporated into our curriculum, continuing to maintain distance, but offering varying environments for students. There will be outside areas designated for classes and our teachers will maintain the highest possible level of education and comfort for all students. Tents may also be available for outdoor learning opportunities.

Some grades/classes will eat lunch in their classrooms and some outside if possible. There will be some classes eating in the Activity Center at safe distances. Recess will be outside. All water fountains on campus have been removed and replaced with water bottlefillers to prevent the spread of any illness.

WHAT WILL THE RESPONSE BE IF THERE IS A CONFIRMED CASE OF COVID-19 IN THE SCHOOL?

The school staff (teachers and administration) will be proactive with retaining classroom attendance. This may involve identifying people who have an infectious disease and those to whom they may have exposed. (Through proper reporting to the school.)

A COVID- 19 close contact is defined as anyone who has been within 6 feet of an infected person (who has tested positive for Covid) for at least 15 minutes or longer in a 24 hour period. Parental cooperation will be essential in helping to determine close contacts outside of school

Should you or your student be kept home, test positive, or be self-quarantined, please notify Deb Lawson at the school office to help with timelines and reporting as well as return to school information. If your student displays symptoms at school, the student will be isolated to a separate room and parents will be notified.

(910)692-6241 or dlawson@jp2catholicschool.org

The school will follow all guidelines in place by the local health authority, including the possibility of closing the school until the health threat is resolved, or sending the cohort (group) home for a time-period. Our Protocols and policies at the school will be re-evaluated every 30 days.

Thank you all for your understanding, cooperation, support and assistance. Please do not hesitate to communicate with the school staff if you have questions or concerns. You may also email them to dlawson@jp2catholicschool.org. We will respond promptly. Additional information and documentation will be forthcoming as the circumstances require. **Please refer to the information and links provided on the Resource page of this document**



Covid 19 Resource

[NCDHHS Website](#)

[American Academy of Pediatrics](#)

[CDC Covid Guidelines for Schools](#)

[Moore County Health Department](#)

[NC Strong Schools Tool-Kit July 30 2021](#)

“I plead with you--never, ever give up on hope,
never doubt, never tire, and never become
discouraged. Be not afraid.” **St. John Paul II**

OUR HOPE...AND OUR FUTURE

