



Dear SJCA families, students and staff,

The spirit and generosity of the St. Joseph community never ceases to both amaze and inspire me. I cannot thank you all enough for the birthday video I received yesterday. During this time of social distancing, the messages of hope, well wishes and good cheer from so many past and present St. Joseph families truly made my day. Special thanks to Molly Ryan for orchestrating this much appreciated surprise.

Here is today's update regarding SJCA.

- As I am sure you are aware, Governor Evers has issued an Executive Order instituting a "Safer at Home" policy for the state of Wisconsin until April 24, 2020. This new edict will extend distance learning for our students, families and teachers for at least the next month. We will continue to monitor the situation and communicate as information becomes available.
- In compliance with the Governor's orders, both SJCA campuses will remain closed. We will maintain a skeleton crew to perform certain necessary functions, but for all intents and purposes, all SJCA facilities are closed. **Please continue to be good citizens and selfless stewards during these unsettling times, "not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others."** Philippians 2:4. Together as a caring community, let's all band together to battle this virus.
- **Our second day of distance learning went well.** I wholeheartedly commend our students and staff for moving so seamlessly and quickly to this new style of learning. Principal Santarelli, Principal Rizzo, Mrs. Witthun and I have all been very pleased with the effort, attendance and attentiveness of our students. We are so very blessed to have this dedicated faculty and staff at SJCA.
- **I want to commend our Tech Department, Mr. Bernhardt and Mr. Baranowski for their unceasing support of our teachers and families.** They are the backbone of virtual learning and have been working long hours to troubleshoot any issues that arise. **Also, a huge thank you to science teacher Lousie Meyer who has been at the forefront of digital learning technologies and has been sharing may tips with our staff.** We all realize that there will be bumps along the way with virtual learning, but I have total confidence in our principals, teachers, tech department and staff to navigate all that lies ahead.
- **Just a reminder, on this Friday, March 27th, the Upper Campus students will be attending school VIRTUALLY.** The Lower Campus students have the day off.
- Finally, please pace yourselves. We understand that this is a stressful time for everyone with concerns about health, employment, childcare, and innumerable other pressing issues. Given this latest government order, we will be living with

this new normal for at least the next month. Take the time you need to make distance learning work best for your students and family. Reach out to your principals, teachers and each other. We are here for you and want to make sure that everyone in our school family is feeling valued and supported.

Thank you all for sticking with us and for staying in close contact during these unsettling times. Our prayers go out to all of you, especially those on the frontlines of this crisis who due to professional responsibilities must go to work in order to keep the rest of us safe. Please pray often for our school community, our loved ones, our leaders and our world.

With gratitude and humility,

Bob Freund