



August 23, 2020

Dear Parents,

As we embark on another school year, we are inspired by Matthew 5: 13-16, “Just so, your light must shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your heavenly Father”. We, as administrators, staff, parents, and students, are leading and modeling Christ’s example to others during this challenging and ever-changing times. Please join us in seeing the good deeds and work at SJRCS- and rejoicing in His blessings!

### **Here’s the Scoop**

As an administrative team, we have been laser-focused on safety, distance learning, curriculum, hiring/staffing needs, and enrollment. Since July 1, we have been planning, updating, and implementing plans to provide the best educational experience for your children and family. In providing effective communication, we are pleased to share the “scoop” with you.

#### Safety

We are so grateful for the guidance of the leadership team in the Archdiocese of Baltimore (AOB). They have connected with numerous organizations, such as the Center for Disease Control (CDC), Heath Department in Maryland, The American Pediatric Association, to give the most current information and safety guidelines to us. As a result of their diligence, we have shared an updated SJRCS Reopening Guide (v.2) at the end of July ([www.sjrccs.org](http://www.sjrccs.org) Home Page, Fall Opening) and have continued to pivot as needed. We are blessed with ongoing guidance and input from AOB, parents, and staff, answer numerous questions, and act accordingly- always keeping students’ and adults’ safety as the priority.

Inside the building, a flurry of activity has occurred in preparation to welcome students. We are so grateful for the hard work and patience of Mr. Lonnie Burrier, Mr. Gary Price, and Nick Churilla as they have been an integral part of the safety plan- offered suggestions and guidance, checked the ventilation system, installed plexiglass in classrooms and restrooms, and moved an incredible amount of furniture! Last Thursday, Mr. Burrier oversaw the spraying process (disinfectant and protectant) throughout the building. (except preschool as we are awaiting the green light from MSDE and AOB). Additionally, we are in the process of adding signage on the doors and throughout the school, adding sneeze guards to each student’s desk, and providing training to teacher/staff during our professional days this week. Visitors’ access to the building has been limited. We are planning to post a video of the school on our website, so you can view the internal space.

The safety of our students and teachers/staff is reliant on a partnership with you, our parents. We recognize that you have been extremely patient and placing an enormous amount of trust in us. Thank you! We continue to listen to your suggestions, questions, and concerns. For example, you may have noticed that we altered our procedure from temperature checks for students from at home only to

temperature checks both at home and at school. As we move through the school year, we anticipate a learning curve- continuously reviewing our processes and procedures and updating them as needed.

### Distance Learning

With much excitement, we are able to launch the school year with in-person and distance learning! Under the leadership of our assistant principal, Mrs. Kim Hanner, and our technology teacher, Mr. Michael Fairley, we have developed the instructional minutes for distance learners, acquired the essential technology, and provided two webcam workshops for our teachers/staff. Technology training for teachers/staff will continue during our professional days this week.

For students and parents, we have two technology-related items. On the [www.sjracs.org](http://www.sjracs.org) (under Parents) please view the video about Chromebooks with your child(ren), then sign the Chromebook form and the Acceptable Use Policy for Technology. Along with textbooks, the Chromebook (grades 3-8) and iPad (grades 1-2) pick-up is Thursday, August 27 (12:00-3:00PM). If possible, families with the last name A-M arrive between 12:00-1:30 and families with the last name of N-Z arrive between 1:30-3:00. and N-Z (time).

### Curriculum

We have updated three curricular areas, Math, Spanish, and the Pathways Program. For math, students in grade 8 will continue their math placements (groups). Beginning with the end in mind, we are streamlining the curriculum, so 7<sup>th</sup> graders will take pre-algebra and 8<sup>th</sup> graders will have algebra. Therefore, we will not be “grouping”, but raising the bar for all students in math. Thank you to Ms. Alex Kuznir for her leadership in redesigning the math program. We have been discussing the curricular details will share more information with you soon.

Spanish instruction will be offered to students in grades 1-8. Mrs. Maria Miller is excited to offer a dynamic program to our students, including reading, writing, and speaking Spanish in real-life situations. We aim to further enhance the global perspective for our students.

The Pathways Program monitors the academic and social/emotional progress and needs of all students in the building. Lead by Mrs. Karen Gawinske, the Student Advocacy Team (SAT) of the Pathways Program includes the administrators, counselor, selected teachers, and selected instructional assistants. Parents whose children have academic plans or special social/emotional needs have been/will be contacted by the Mrs. Gawinske or Ms. Carley Weber, counselor. We appreciate your patience as we launch the Pathways Program.

### Staffing

This summer, we have experienced an unprecedented number of faculty and staff choosing different options for the 2020-2021 school. Their reasons include new positions at local public and private schools, COVID-19 concerns or health issues, family issues, and retirement. Since July 1, the following teachers and staff members have submitted their resignations: Carrie Michaels-Anderson, Judy

Ballenger, Christine Cheli, Cheryl Churilla, Lisa Garbowski, Geri Gramil, Cathy Grimes, Cathy Hinesley, Meghan Holtz, Colleen Manchester, Sue Murr, Nicole Rabinowitz, Vincent Rapposelli, Natalie Theis. We thank these wonderful individuals for their dedicated service to SJRCS and wish them the best in their future endeavors.

On Monday, August 24, we will welcome these talented professional educators to their new roles at SJRCS: Ms. Maggie Allison (teacher grade 2), Mrs. Deborah Carroll (teacher grade 4), Mrs. Karen Gaydos (instructional assistant kindergarten), Ms. Sadie Homick (teacher kindergarten), Mrs. Lindsey Massuda (instructional assistant kindergarten), Mrs. Caroline McHugh (teacher pre-k 4), Mrs. Bridget McNamara (teacher grade 2), Mrs. Maria Miller (Spanish teacher), Mrs. Amy Neubauer (teacher preschool 3), Mrs. Denise Price (instructional assistant pre-k 3), Mr. Ryan Scanlon (teacher grade 4), Mrs. Tracie Sedlock (teacher grade 1), Ms. Marlene Seifert (teacher science), Mrs. Jacqueline Sindall (teacher art), Mrs. Michelle Thomas (instructional assistant pre-k 4), Mrs. Sherricka Velez (instructional assistant grade 2), Mrs. Meeghan White (teacher grade 3). Please join me in welcoming our newest Wildcats to SJRCS!

Our wonderful school nurse, Mrs. Lisa Kaempfer, has been working on school safety and numerous medical details. If you would like to be considered for the school nurse's sub list, please contact Mrs. Kaempfer [lkaempfer@sjrcs.org](mailto:lkaempfer@sjrcs.org). Mrs. Kaempfer has asked that all parents read Appendix A (see SJRCS reopening Guidance v2) for clarity regarding a potential COVID-19 case at school. As a reminder, if one child has a temperature in the car, all students in the car will need to go home for self-monitoring and be cleared by a doctor. Immunizations for new students, kindergarten students, and grade 7 students must be completed by the first day of school.

### Enrollment

In July, SJRCS announced its Re-Opening Plan while Frederick County Public Schools decided on a virtual learning environment- on the same day! This created a "perfect storm" where the SJRCS was inundated with phone calls and emails from prospective families. A special thank you to Mrs. Kathy Kinsey, Director of Enrollment, who worked tirelessly to field questions, tour families, and assess incoming students. As always, current SJRCS students have priority for placement over incoming families.

Due to new classroom capacity guidelines from Maryland State Department of Education and interest from prospective families, SJRCS has opened a third pre-school 4 classroom and a third kindergarten classroom this fall. Even with two new classrooms, SJRCS has an extensive waiting list in preschool and kindergarten as well as nearly all other grade levels in the school.

### **Check List for In-Person Students before FIRST DAY of School**

- Sign AOB Acknowledgement Risk Form (School Admin)
- Sign AOB COVID-19 Protocols (School Admin)
- Complete all financial documents (FACTS) Contact Mrs. Jill Buls for more information [jbuls@sjrcs.org](mailto:jbuls@sjrcs.org)
- Immunizations (new students, kindergarten, and grade 7)

- View Chromebook Training (see [www.sjrccs.org](http://www.sjrccs.org) Parent Tab, Fall Opening Information) by Wednesday, August 26.
- Sign Chromebook Agreement and Optional Insurance (School Admin)
- Sign Acceptable Use Agreement for Technology (School Admin)

**Check List for Distance Learning Students before FIRST DAY of school**

- Complete all financial documents (FACTS) Contact Mrs. Jill Buls for more information [jbuls@sjrccs.org](mailto:jbuls@sjrccs.org)
- Immunizations (new students, kindergarten, and grade 7)
- View Chromebook Training (see [www.sjrccs.org](http://www.sjrccs.org) Parent Tab, Fall Opening Information) by Wednesday, August 26.
- Sign Chromebook Agreement and Optional Insurance (School Admin)
- Sign Acceptable Use Agreement for Technology (School Admin)

**Important Forms**

The Archdiocese of Baltimore requests all student families to review and electronically sign the following two documents for each student located in your School Admin account **ASAP**.

Here is the School Admin link: [https://sjrccs.schooladminonline.com/users/sign\\_in](https://sjrccs.schooladminonline.com/users/sign_in)

1. Assumption of Risk Statement
2. Parent Acknowledgement and Agreement Regarding COVID-19 Protocols

**Class Lists**

Thank you for selecting in-person learning or distance learning. We are finalizing the lists and will share them soon. We know the students are excited to see who their classmates and teachers are!

**SJRCS Reopening Plan v2**

Our SJRCS Reopening Plan v2 has been posted on the front page of our website [www.sjrccs.org](http://www.sjrccs.org)

**Summer Packet**

Also, the Summer Packet is available on our website [www.sjrccs.org](http://www.sjrccs.org) under the “Parent Tab”. The summer packet contains the updated school calendar, technology information, supply lists, Home and School Association (H.S.A.) information, Wildcat Café Information, Aftercare Information, Golf Tournament, School Grounds Clean-Up Day, Friends of Catholic Education, and Virtual Story Time for Tots. Check it out!

**Back to School Grounds Clean-up: Please join us!**

- Date: Saturday, August 29th
- Time: 8a.m.- 4p.m.
- Place: SJRCS School Grounds
- Lunch will be served
- Please bring shovels, rakes, wheel barrels, mulch, weeding tools, leaf blower, power washer, gardening tools, etc.
- For more information, please contact Jason Wheatley at [Jww613@yahoo.com](mailto:Jww613@yahoo.com).
- Please sign up for planning purposes and to receive your volunteer hours <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/60b0549abaf28a1fc1-garden>

## **Calendar**

### Monday, August 24

- Professional Development for Teachers/Staff
- School Office is closed 8AM-1PM.

### Tuesday, August 25

- Professional Development for Teachers/Staff
- School Office open 9:00-2:00 (calls only)

### Wednesday, August 26

- Professional Development for Teachers/Staff
- School Office open 9:00-2:00 (calls only)

### Thursday, August 27

- Professional Development for Teachers/Staff
- School Office open 9:00-2:00 (Calls Only)
- Students' Medication Drop-Off 12:00-3:00
- Virtual Students: Chromebook, iPads, and Textbooks Pick-Up
  - Last Names A-M 12:00-1:30
  - Last Names N-Z 1:30-3:00

### Friday, August 28

- School Office is closed.

### Saturday, August 29

- Back-to-School Grounds Clean Up (8AM-4PM)

### Monday, August 31

- Happy First Day of School! (Grades 1-8 only)
- Dismissal 11:55
- Virtual Students: Meet the Teacher "Parade" (1-3PM); Masks required.

### Monday August 31- Friday, September 4

- Pre-K 3, Pre-K 4 and Kindergarten students will be given an assessment during this week.
- Parents of Pre-Kindergarten and Kindergarten students: Please use this link <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/20F0E4FABAA2C7-prekindergarten> to schedule an assessment for your child during the week of August 31- September 4. Their first week of school will begin on Tuesday, September 8

Monday, September 7

- No School- Labor Day

Tuesday, September 8

- First day of School (PreK 3, PreK 4, Kindergarten) Welcome!

We look forward to welcoming you and your children back to school on Monday, August 31 (Grades 1-8) and Tuesday, September 8 (Pre-Kindergarten and Kindergarten).

Enjoy the week!

Dr. Annette Jones and Mrs. Kim Hanner