



ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST

Catholic Church & School

A Message from the Principal:

During this time of uncertainty, it is imperative that all people, children included, feel a sense of normalcy. The teachers are working hard to provide that sense of normalcy within each e-learning experience that they provide. Like many of us adults, and maybe even more so, children are missing their social time.

The teachers have been holding virtual meetings where students can not only see their peers and teacher but can interact with them. This has been most helpful in bringing a more human-like feel to e-learning. Another wonderful way that our students are able to feel a sense of normalcy is through faith-based lessons and the integration of prayer throughout each week of e-learning. I recently went into one of the teacher's Google Classrooms, a platform for sharing online learning resources, and noted several beautifully written prayers that her students created for each day that school has not been in session.

Mrs. Calkins, our guidance counselor, provided our families with mental health resources for children and also provided families with resources that help a child spiritually during times of uncertainty. To piggyback off of what Mrs. Calkins shared, it is important that children are reminded that God is always here for us and that He is the one constant that we can rely on during these challenging times. The teachers and I are appreciative of the continued support and prayers being offered as we continue to navigate our way through this non-traditional style of teaching.

Mrs. Amy Nelson

Mrs. Amy E. Nelson, Principal



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A Message from the Principal:

As the school year winds down, the teachers and I will take time to reflect and do an analysis of the school's virtual learning experiences. A survey will be sent to our families so that they can share their experiences. It will be critical information to consider and aid us in refining practice and in supporting teachers, parents/guardians, and students in future distance learning situations.

Even though we do not know how long each of the Catholic Comeback phases will last, we are being proactive and are taking steps in preparing for the possibility of this being part of our new "normal." Teaching and learning remotely may not be everyone's choice on how to end this school year. However, the teachers and I have already discussed some of the positives we have experienced during virtual learning.

Below is a sampling of the positives noted:

- Teachers "required" to learn new technology platforms and become familiar with a variety of virtual learning resources
- Effective time management was practiced and in some cases improved upon
- Expanded world view
- Asynchronous discussions with classmates
- Combination of structure and freedom
- Teacher-to-teacher collaboration



The teachers and I could not have adjusted in the transition from traditional learning to virtual learning without assistance from our IT person, nor without the support and assistance from the parents. Kudos to Mr. Jeremiah Johnson and to our parents/guardians! We appreciate all of you!

Mrs. Amy Nelson

Mrs. Amy E. Nelson, Principal