

## From the Principal

As you may have heard this afternoon, Governor Walz has suspended all in-person school days for the remainder of the 2019-2020 school year to help limit the spread of COVID-19. While not unexpected, I think all of us were holding out the hope that things might be different and we could welcome our students back to finish out the school year in-person. Nevertheless, with this news, we will continue with our distance learning at St. John's. There were a number of big events that were coming up, especially for our 8th graders, that in light of this announcement will need to be altered or canceled altogether. We will look for different and unique ways to continue to reach out and build community with all our families. Eighth grade parents should look for communications from us on any alternative plans in the next week or two.

We want to let all of our families know the following changes that will be made to your tuition agreements:

1. **Volunteer Hour Commitment:** Due to the changed landscape of school and activities, we are removing the Volunteer Commitment from our parents for this school year. What does this mean for you? For those that have completed their 20 hours already this school year, we want to thank you for your time and your help and know that we appreciate all you do for SJB! If you have not completed your hours, you will not be charged the \$250 (or a portion thereof) for the hours that have not been volunteered and completed.
2. **Field Trip Fee:** Due to the school closure since mid March, many of our scheduled student field trips did not or will not happen. Therefore, some of our families will be receiving a refund on a portion of the field trip fee. Students in grades 6-8 used the entirety of the \$75 fee already this year so no credit will be issued for them, however, a portion will be refunded to families with students in grades K-5. The amount may vary grade to grade so the refund amount will be calculated and communicated in the next week or so.

Due to the extended school building closure and looking ahead to summer, we want to get a idea of our families' potential need for care for your children. We know that some of this is dependent upon the ability of workplaces to allow workers to return onsite versus working from home, so you may not fully know what the next several months will hold. However, we ask you to consider your potential needs and to complete the following Google form regarding Preschool Care Crew and J-Care for the month of May and into the summer. Questions? Contact [Andrea Schroeder](#) (preschool) or [Alison Wacek](#) (J-Care). Please click here for the form: [Care Crew and J-Care Needs Form](#)

Finally, we know that this is not how anyone wants the school year to end. We miss our students immensely and we grieve with you the loss of the year-ending activities. Our teachers have done a tremendous job of stepping up to the challenge that is distance learning and we are grateful for their dedication to their students and St. John's. Our students are adapting and thriving, even while being frustrated (at times) and missing the structure of the school day and their time with classmates. We know that distance learning has been challenging, but we hope all our families are finding some joy in this time as well - maybe you are enjoying the slower pace and spending more time together as a family? Family dinners or game nights? New hobbies or books? Family prayer time? We hope you all are looking for and finding the good in these challenging times too!

Know that you continue to be in our thoughts and prayers.

Ann Laird, Principal

## AIM Higher Scholarship

The AIM Higher Foundation is an organization whose mission is to help families realize the goal of their children attending a Catholic school. Each year, they award thousands of dollars in scholarships to families for Catholic school tuition. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, they are now taking applications for additional \$1000 scholarships to families who are experiencing financial hardship which may make it extremely difficult, if not impossible, to keep their children in grades K-8 at their Catholic school.

We know that some of our St. John's families may be experiencing this financial hardship. If you would like to be considered for a scholarship, please complete the Google form below:

<https://forms.gle/eoUzch9Y95bwNpyC9>

Please be sure to fill out the form completely and with a **detailed reason** for needing the scholarship. Once you have completed this form, we will then apply for this scholarship on your behalf (they are only taking applications submitted by the school – not by individual families). Information submitted on this form will be kept confidential.

\*Note that any award decisions are not determined by anyone at St. John's, but by the AIM Higher Foundation only.

## Amazon Smile

As many of us have gone to online ordering of items, please remember if you order through Amazon to use Amazon Smile and select St. John's as your charity of choice. St. John's receives a percentage of all sales made through this option. Thank you!

**amazon smile**  
You shop. Amazon gives.



## SJB Parish News

St. John's Parish is continuing to offer all parishioners the opportunity to continue to pray as a community of faith both virtually and "in-person" to help keep us connected not only to God, but to each other.

- \* Live-streamed Mass on YouTube at **4:30pm Saturday, April 25th**
- \* Parking lot Prayer Service, **Sunday, April 26th at 9:30 and 11:00am** (live-streamed on Facebook), 30-40minutes
- \* 3:00pm Prayer Time, daily on Facebook - Litany in Time of Need, Novena
- \* Father's Favorites on Facebook (various Catholic topics), 30-45 minutes in length
  - ⇒ **Thursday, April 23rd at 7:00pm: SAINTS**
  - ⇒ **Tuesday, April 28th at 7:00pm: SCRIPTURE PASSAGES**
  - ⇒ **Thursday, April 30 at 7:00pm: CHURCHES**

[St. John the Baptist Church website](#)

[St. John the Baptist Church YouTube](#)

[St. John the Baptist Church Facebook](#)

## Youth Ministry at SJB

We might not be able to meet in person, but the SJB Youth Groups are still available virtually! Below is the current schedule for youth Ministry during this time. If your MS student is interested, please email Mikayla Anderson for meeting IDs and passwords

[andersonm@stjohnnyb.org](mailto:andersonm@stjohnnyb.org)

**Tuesdays- 3:30-4:30pm**

### HIGH SCHOOL ZOOM YOUTH GROUP

These meetings are geared for community, online games and fellowship!

**Wednesdays, - 3:30-4:30pm**

### MIDDLE SCHOOL ZOOM YOUTH GROUP


These meetings are geared for community, online games and fellowship!

**Wednesdays, - 7:00-8:30pm**

### YOUTH GROUP ZOOM (HS & MS)

These meetings will include both games and a time for prayer!

## Community News



**TOTINO-GRACE**  
*Virtual Open House*  
**MONDAY, APRIL 27**

Imagine your student as a Totino-Grace Eagle and you could win Apple AirPods!

TG is a small school that offers the opportunities found at a big school. Our faculty and staff have led the way this spring with online distance learning and understand that knowing your student is getting the best possible education is important.

TG is proud of our award-winning athletic and performing arts programs that are recognized as some of the best in the state and invite you to learn more about all we offer!

The Virtual Open House will include live and pre-recorded segments. The live portion begins at 6:00 pm on Monday, April 27th.

**Attendees will have their name entered in a drawing for Apple AirPods.**

Visit [totinograce.org](http://totinograce.org) to learn more and reserve your virtual seat!

Questions - contact [admissions@totinograce.org](mailto:admissions@totinograce.org)