



# ST. JOHN CATHOLIC SCHOOL WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

August 31, 2020



## Welcome Back, Everyone!

We are all so excited to finally begin the new school year. I realize that it is not the way we had planned it but we are trusting in God's plan for this year. This is certainly going to be a year of flexibility and faith. The teachers have been working very hard to create a wonderful start to the year. They are very eager to see you again and they have missed you so much. We can't wait to see all your smiling faces even if it is on a screen at first. Be sure to get your learning space set up and get yourself ready to start the day in the right way. The habits you form now, will be the habits you carry back into the classroom once we begin to return. We appreciate your love and grace as we begin this new year! Many new families are joining us and we couldn't be more excited with the diversity they bring to our community. We look forward to getting to know each and every one of you as the year goes along. Please don't hesitate to reach out to our school office with questions. The main number for the school is 785-843-9511. Elizabeth Rodas, our new Office Manager, is now keeping regular office hours.

## All School Prayer Gathering

At this time, the Prayer Gathering will be recorded and sent out to families. I hope that you are able to start your day by listening to the video. If you have any prayers of thanks or have prayer requests please email them to me at [creffett@sjeagles.com](mailto:creffett@sjeagles.com). I would like to include them in my daily recording for the school. Sorry about the change in plans. I'm still looking for a cost-effective solution. At this time, I will not be having a Zoom meeting at the beginning of the day due to limited participants.

## Google Classroom

Be sure to have your child join their Google classes. They have been invited and hopefully by now they have joined. Each homeroom teacher sent out the Remote Learning schedule with links included for classroom time. Your teachers are an email away in case you have a question.

## NEW EMAIL ADDRESS

This summer we have transitioned to a new email account for each teacher and staff member of the school. The new email is their first initial, full last name, and then [@sjeagles.com](mailto:@sjeagles.com). For example, my new email is [creffett@sjeagles.com](mailto:creffett@sjeagles.com). Please be sure to use this new email address so communication can happen as quickly as possible. Our old email address will still work for a while but we may be inconsistent in checking it.

## SCHOOL SUPPLIES

I wanted to thank everyone for taking the time to come pick up supplies on Friday. Thank you for helping us get the year started on the right foot. If you feel like you are missing something please email your homeroom teacher to ask questions. If you ordered t-shirts but they were not in with your supplies please email Elizabeth at [erodas@sjeagles.com](mailto:erodas@sjeagles.com). Some of our early orders did not have a name attached to it so we received a few orders but did not know who they went to. Sorry for any confusion this might have created.

## Parent Handbook Forms

If you have done so already, please be sure to read through the Parent Handbook and Back to School Plan then sign your acknowledgement form. Here is the link to the form you will need to sign. Once you hit submit it will automatically be sent to me. <https://www.jotform.com/build/202323822672046>

## Custodial Position

Due to health reasons, Tom Kellogg has decided to retire from his position as our custodian. Tom has been such an important part in the community of St. John and he will be so missed. Because of Tom's departure, I am currently looking for a full-time custodian. If you are interested in this position or know of someone that might be interested please contact me at [creffett@sjegales.com](mailto:creffett@sjegales.com) or call 785-843-9511. We do have a cleaning service in place right now and it will continue until we find a full-time employee.

## Weekly Status Update

Each week, I will be sending out two updates about the status of our school in regards to COVID-19. One update will be in the newsletter and one will be a separate email. The purpose of this is to keep everyone on the same page with information we are using to guide us on the current status of our learning environment. Information included in this update will be daily case counts, positivity rates, 14 day trends, teacher absenteeism rate, amount of PPE supplies on hand, the status of health resources in the community and any overall COVID updates that may be relevant to us as a community. I hope this will be helpful information so we can all stay on the same page. Here is an example of what it would look like.

Daily Case Rate	25
Positivity Rate	4.3
14 Day Trend	Decreasing
PPE	4 week supply - nothing on back order at this time
LMH	ICU beds in use- 25% Ventilators in use- 10%
Technology	Loaned out 53 Chromebooks Still have Chromebooks to loan out Loaned out 13 tablets 30 tablets on back order
Teacher Absenteeism	5% teach absenteeism this week 1 long-term sub in use
Medical Updates	Vaccine Trials are in Stage 3 - Keep the prayers going!

## PRAYERS & THANK YOU'S

Prayers for Tom Kellogg, our beloved Custodian for many years. Tom is currently receiving chemotherapy treatment for cancer that has returned. We thank him for his many years of service to St. John and we continue to pray for his health and continued recovery.

A huge thank you to all the families that donated supplies to the school and to individual teachers. Your support was greatly appreciated!

Prayers for the lives lost due to COVID and the families and friends that are grieving their loss.

Prayers for our new staff. We are very blessed to have you join the St. John family and we pray that you have a wonderful school year.

Continued prayers for all healthcare workers as they work to treat those who are sick and working tirelessly to bring our lives back to some form of normalcy.

Continued prayers for everyone that works with the public helping to keep our society going.

*As always, please send us any prayers or messages or gratitude that you would like for me to include in the weekly newsletter.*