Dear Parents and Students,

What can I say? The last few months have been filled with anxiety and trepidation. All of us were asked to fulfill roles and responsibilities that we never anticipated. Everyone – teachers, parents and students rose to the occasion! Now, we need to return to some normalcy – a new normal.

Enclosed please find the guidelines that we will be following for the 2020-2021 school year.

Sanitation will be a paramount throughout the building. We will be constantly reminding the students of proper hygiene.

Thanks to the Home and School Association we were able to purchase:

1. Adapters to the water fountains. All students will be asked to bring a water bottle daily with their names on it. There will be no drinking from the water fountain.
2. Equipment to sanitize the rooms (sprayers will be in by September)
3. Sneeze shields when the children cannot be six feet apart.
4. Dividers to be used in computer room to separate the students.
5. Additional masks and shields.
6. Lanyards to hold the masks.
7. Five touchless thermometers.

We are most grateful to the Home and School Association for providing the necessary equipment and supplies to keep our students safe.

**Masks are to be appropriate. The students will be given a mask if the principal deems the mask is not acceptable to be worn in a Catholic School. If your child cannot wear a mask or shield for medical reasons, you must have it in writing by a medical doctor.**

Our cafeteria will be used for lunches. We will divide the room into quadrants. The only days the students will be eating in the rooms on Tuesdays and Fridays due to gym classes. Uniontown School District will still be providing our food. Trays will be pre-prepared. Students will not be able to pick and choose but must take whatever is provided on the tray.

The school has been prepared for the 2020-2021 school year.

A special thank-you to the Board of Trust Administrators for their support. Also, thanks to Dr. Maureen Marsteller, our Superintendent, for her constant support. My husband, Vincent, has been invaluable in ensuring that the school is ready for the new year.

We also want to thank Marty Lowry, our janitor for all that he did over the summer to prepare the school for the 2020-2021 school year such as painting, polishing, cleaning, etc...to mention only a few jobs that Mr. Marty did.

Mrs. Christine Rozak and Mrs. Mary Williams decided to retire. We want to thank them for their years of service and wish them well as they begin this next phase of their lives. We have hired Justin Goletz. Mr.
Goletz will be the 7th grade teacher. He is married and has two sons who attend St. John’s, Chase who will be in 5th grade and Nathan who will be in 2nd grade this year. Mr. Goletz lives in Uniontown, but he grew up in Masontown. He has his Master’s Degree in Education (grades K-6), additional Math Certification (grades 7-9), and Principal Certification from California University of Pa. He also has his Bachelor’s Degree in Business Administration with a focus in Marketing from Penn State University. Mr. Goletz spent nine years teaching Junior High Math and Elementary School Reading, as well as coaching basketball. Prior to teaching, he worked in business. Welcome Mr. Goletz!

Mrs. Lindsey Lucostic will be the Kindergarten teacher. Since she has been with us, Mrs. Lucostic has wanted to teach in the Primary Grades. Miss Roby will be the fourth grade homeroom teacher. We hired Mr. Bill Poninsky to teach Physical Education. Mr. Poninsky attended Slippery Rock University where he obtained a B.S. in Health and Physical Education. Upon graduation, he began his career at the Sewickley YMCA. Bill moved to Uniontown in 1987 where he performed many jobs from Fitness Director to Program Director at the Uniontown YMCA. He retired from the YMCA in 2018. Many of you may already know Mr. Poninsky from his 30 years of service at the YMCA or through his wife, Mrs. Catherine Poninsky, our first grade teacher. Mr. Poninsky is excited to begin his next chapter of his life here at SJE.

We have purchased 44 new laptops – with more coming to continually upgrade our technology program. Sincere gratitude to Mrs. Palya for all the extra time and effort she provided over the summer to continue to reimage the computers and laptops. We are aiming for a one on one initiative with every student having his/her own device.

We are most grateful to The Sheba Family for donating money for the purchase of a Smartboard in memory of Amy Stout, daughter of Diane Lavery and sister of Gianna Barrera. This most generous donation will bring the number of Smartboards in the school to 5. What a wonderful way for us to remember Amy!!

We are in the process of ordering new Social Studies books for our fourth and fifth grades. We are hopeful that they will be received by the beginning of the school year.

We are very excited to announce that we will continue our instrumental music program this year. Mrs. Diane Lavery will be offering these services. She will also be helping with our Christmas program and Spring Musical. We are so grateful to her.

We are also very excited to announce that the Girl Scout Troop will continue this year at St. John’s. Mrs. Susan Blanda and Ms. Kathleen Bryner are spearheading this endeavor. Please see the enclosed flier for more information.

We have tried to compile a school calendar complete with all the important dates that you will need throughout the school year. (See enclosed sheet). Please keep this handy so that you can make adjustments to your home and work schedule ahead of time. Please know that many of our activities will look differently this year due to the CDC restrictions. Please bear with us during this time of transition.

As required by the state as well as the diocese, we have created a wellness plan for our school. In view of this policy, we will not be selling snacks after lunch and encourage only healthy treats for birthday celebrations. A list of acceptable snacks is included with this letter. In addition, the students will be encouraged to exercise more. Wellness Wednesday will continue this year. Each week a different class is involved with planning a Wellness activity that the entire school does. Please see the enclosed wellness policy for more information. This policy was revised by the diocese this year.

Project Wisdom is another aspect of our character development curriculum. Through money from the Home & School Association, we were able to continue to purchase this dimension to our program. Please see the enclosed sheet for more details.
Our teachers/staff are trained in Power School. This program permits the families to view their child’s progress on-line. Our report cards are also Power School generated. In addition to being trained in Power School, the teachers have been taking classes this summer to enhance their individual areas of expertise.

Every class will have a service project. Please see the September newsletter for the service project your child’s class will be participating in this year.

For our After School Care program ~ Mrs. Michelle Broadwater will take care of Grades Pre-K, K, 1, and 2 in the Kindergarten Room on Mondays, Wednesdays and Friday; Mrs. Amy Palya on Tuesdays; and Mrs. Lenora Kushnar on Thursdays. Grades 3-8 in the Preschool Room will have Ms. Kim Paull on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays and Mrs. Lenora Kushnar on Mondays and Wednesdays.

New Grade appropriate assignment books have been purchased for the children. These new books coincide with our character development program and are geared for our Catholic faith. The cost per book is $7.00. There are primary books K, 1, 2 ~ Elementary books for Grades 3, 4, 5 ~ and Middle School books for Grades 6, 7, 8. Please indicate when ordering the book which grade level(s) you would like.

We are also creating a school calendar again this year. The classes/teachers have chosen a month. The student’s pictures will be featured on that month. The cost of the calendars is $20.00. In addition, for an additional $6.00 per event, you can have personal information such as birthdays, anniversaries etc.…put on the calendar. The calendar will be ready by Christmas and will run from January 2020–December 2020. A sample of this calendar will be available at the Meet/Greet Night.

Our teachers have been trained in Schoology. For more information from a parent perspective, please go to https://support.schoology.com/hc/en-us/articles/201000833-Home-Page-Parents. The diocese wants all of us to use the same format in the event distance learning is warranted. We are also working on providing one on one devices for all of the students.

We want to thank Jason Taylor for all of his time the past years acting as our athletic director. Because of other commitments, Jason cannot continue in this position. Mr. & Mrs. Shumar have graciously agreed to assume this role. Mr. Mike Fisher will continue his role as well.

As you can see, there is so much going on at St. John the Evangelist Regional Catholic School to continue to make it the best school it can possibly be. Our students are always at the heart of all that we do. We thank God for them and for you. Thank you for believing in us and valuing the quality of education provided at St. John the Evangelist Regional Catholic School.

Please know that my door is always open to you and I am available if you need me. I am looking forward to another great year!

Thank you for the privilege of working with you and your precious children.

Sincerely,

Christine D. Roskovensky
Principal