



Saint Saviour Catholic Academy

June 2020

Dear SSCA Families,

We hope this letter finds you safe, healthy and ready for summer. As we write this, we reflect upon the last twelve weeks and all that has happened. We understand that it has been a difficult time for many. It has been especially hard to deal with the uncertainty of the future.

September 2020

Please know that planning for September is at the forefront of our agenda. We would like nothing more than to tell you that school will open on September 9, 2020 as usual, however right now we cannot tell you that. We can tell you that we are actively working toward that eventuality, provided New York State, New York City and the Diocese allow it. The following three scenarios have been discussed regarding the opening of schools in September 2020.

Scenario #1— A full re-opening of school with all students in the classroom. This in-person classroom model will follow all the CDC protocols, and Department of Health, state, city and local guidelines.

Scenario #2—A hybrid model where students will attend school on certain days of the week and will live stream on the other days. For example, Group A students will come to school for in-person learning on Monday, Wednesday and Friday and Group B students will come to school on Tuesday and Thursday. The following week, groups will alternate. On days that Group A and B are not in the physical classroom space, they will participate with remote instruction. This model will remain in place until the CDC, Department of Health, and state and local authorities deem it acceptable to relax social distancing guidelines, which for the moment remain at 6 feet.

Scenario #3—Schools will continue with a full distance learning model. Please know that teachers in kindergarten through eighth grade will offer a virtual day similar to the actual in-person instructional day that would take place in the physical classroom space. There will be synchronous and asynchronous learning opportunities throughout the day. The day will mimic a regular in-person school day beginning between 8:15 and 8:30 am and lasting until approximately 2:30-2:45 pm.

These are the three scenarios that are currently being discussed at both the state and city levels. Please know that any in-person instruction must adhere to the guidelines set forth by all agencies involved. Our priority first and foremost is to keep our entire school community safe. As we look to September we are seeking your feedback. Please monitor your email today for an invite to fill out the survey entitled: Parent Survey 2019-2020.

Class of 2020

We are also happy to share some exciting news with you. On June 12th, we celebrated the accomplishments of the Class of 2020 with a live Zoom graduation, complete with speeches

from our valedictorian and salutatorian. All of our graduates have earned great spots at both public and Catholic high schools, some of which are: Regis, Brooklyn Tech, Xaverian, Xavier, Goldstein, Dominican Academy, Murrow and St. Saviour High School. We congratulate them and pray that the rest of their educational journey will be far less challenging than was this last year. Please see the link below to view our awesome eighth grade graduates on their big day!
<https://youtu.be/bbwzeieXd4k>

SSCA Finances

With regard to school finances, we received a PPP loan, which enabled us to keep all of our faculty and staff employed. We were also able to re-hire all interested hourly employees. The PPP loan also helped us bridge the gap due to the loss of our very important spring fundraisers. Thankfully, we did not have any capital improvements planned for this summer. There are a few aspects of the pandemic that will continue to affect the finances of SSCA as we work through the summer towards our September opening such as additional expenses and decreases in revenues. We will monitor these developments and respond appropriately. We remain committed to a fair and competitive salary for our faculty and staff and to helping our families in need of financial aid. Accordingly, if you are considering applying for financial aid from the Academy, you must first submit an application to the Diocese for review. Please contact Diane Rigobello with questions.

While all of our families, faculty and staff have spectacularly risen to the occasion of distance learning, we know that all of you are anxious to know what next year's school year will look like. As discussed, we are planning for many eventualities, but we must defer to the government and Diocese for the final plan. Although we are not yet able to commit to how the new school year will open, we will continue to update families as plans unfold.

Thank you for your continued faith and patience. We wish you a safe and happy summer.

Sincerely,

Sue Walsh
Principal

Lenae Guarna
Board Chairperson

Saint Saviour Catholic Academy

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