



# ST. JOSEPH SCHOOL

30 MEADOW AVENUE, BRONXVILLE, NEW YORK 10708

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Good day- and TGIF!

What a week! But: we made it- and with panache, if I might say so!  
If you're asking yourself, "Do I live at home, or work at home?"...it's new to some of us!

We had our two biggest Patron Saint Days for SJS: Saint Patrick and Saint Joseph, and we had to find new ways to celebrate-disappointing-but: we made it!

We spent most of our time trying to learn what our SJS students already know-how to use all of the resources and technology with which they are already familiar-and now you know how, too-congratulations: you made it! It would be an understatement to say that we are all in our own tsunami of some sort: a river of emails, a waterfall of worries, a plethora of boredom, a storm of assignments...but: somehow, we made it!...TOGETHER, although we are apart.

All of this would not have been possible without the absolute cooperation and zeal of our incredible SJS TEAMS of parents, teachers and students!

I've had the pleasure of being in touch with many of you in person (with the recommended six feet between us, of course), via email and/or phone calls. Thank you so much for your feedback, which has been kind, supportive, constructive and very, very welcome!

My plan is to call everyone (please don't disconnect your phone!) to see how everyone is doing.

Sincerely, I want to know if there is any way that I, and or the teachers, can help. Please don't hesitate to contact me if there is something of an urgent nature.

My goal is to take all of the information that I'm receiving from multiple sources and sort it all out- know that I am trying to get the information out to you almost as quickly as I receive it.

As a result, you may have received many emails, including some with resources for parents...(the most recent one being FREE "audible" books, which I think is fabulous!); please be patient as I am eager to share what may be helpful to your family.

I believe that, like most things practiced, this will become easier. Again, that is not so say that this is easy. There are so many moving parts and so many situations...but know we are here to help!

So, newsworthy:

1) The NYS Assessments for Grades 3-8 have been cancelled. This is akin to the NYS Regents Exams being cancelled in 1974ish...yes, that was my Junior Year at The Academy of Mount Saint Ursula! Time to celebrate! However, this does not mean that we will compromise our highest standards; we will continue to teach and learn, just without the question marks and the pressures associated with state testing.

2) I have been in constant contact with The Archdiocese administrative team, from whom I'm taking my guidance. We received more good news, in that our teachers will be able to use various platforms such as Educreation amongst others, to generate "enhanced and engaging presentations". Use of these platforms will allow more more effective teaching and learning.

The Archdiocese is still in the process of determining if we will be able to use other platforms, such as ZOOM, without violating Safe Environment Regulations. I will give the "all clear" if/when that happens.

3) Let us not forget the amazing Kindness Cross Project that Mrs. Casarella instituted! I think it is a perfect time to embody the phrase, "Charity begins at home!" Please assist your child with sending in the acts of kindness done at home, and send them to Mrs. Casarella and/or me. While I know this was a Lenten Project, I do not see any reason why it shouldn't continue, throughout Lent and beyond.

4) The Archdiocese deemed today a day for Principals to conduct remote Faculty Meetings. We held our conference call this morning, and I believe it was a wonderful sharing of information, suggestions, strategies and ideas. Questions that I could not answer will be directed to the Archdiocese administrators, and I will respond to the teachers asap. In a nutshell, we all agreed that the vast majority of this week went well in terms of communicating with parents and learning for students.



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Know that I fully understand and appreciate how difficult this time is for so many people around the world and in our own backyards; however, I know that this quote applies to all in our SJS Community:

“You're braver than you believe, stronger than you seem, and smarter than you think.” -Winnie the Pooh

God bless you and yours!

SJS STRONG and Distance Learning!

Respectfully,

**Mary Ellen Sanchez**

Principal, Saint Joseph School



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