



July 22, 2020

Dear Parents,

Today we are pleased to share with you the attached **Basilica School of Saint Mary 2020-21 Community Policies and Operations Guide in Response to COVID-19**. The plan is grounded in our commitment to the right to access education and faith formation, while at the same time striving to keep everyone safe and healthy. This plan represents hours of collaborative work, planning and discernment by the school and parish administration in consultation with the diocesan Office of Catholic Schools.

**We are pleased to announce that our school campus will be open Monday through Friday to all enrolled children beginning on Monday, August 31, 2020.** We will continue with on campus education unless we receive a government mandate to close our buildings. If that time comes, we will move to distance learning. In addition, we are committed to those families who have special considerations or circumstances and will work with them to educate their child(ren) in the most effective way possible.

Please take time to fully read and reflect on the attached Basilica School of Saint Mary Community Policies and Operation Guide for 2020-21. Each family, faculty and staff member will be required to sign an Acknowledgment Form indicating that they have read and will follow the policies presented. You can find the [acknowledgement form here](#).

In order to better address any questions or clarifications you may have related to the guide itself, please use the following email: [questionsreoperationsguide@smsva.org](mailto:questionsreoperationsguide@smsva.org). You will receive a response within one business day with either the answer or an update. You are, of course, welcome to call the school office as well.

**In the coming weeks you will receive further notifications and directions regarding the first day of school and related events.**

Our 2020-2021 school year theme is ***Praise the name of the Lord!*** Our theme comes from Psalm 113, "From the rising of the sun to its setting, the name of the Lord is to be praised." Each day, from sunrise to sunset, whether in the face of adversity or great joy, we are presented with an opportunity to serve each other, to learn and grow spiritually, and to be united in our gratitude for the blessings God bestows upon all of us. Let this be the guiding tenor and spirit we all share as we seek to care for the spiritual, emotional and academic needs of our cherished students and faculty.

We give thanks to God for all of our gifts, especially the gift of you! May God bless you and your families. Please know that we are keeping you in our daily prayers.

Sincerely Yours in Christ,

*Father Edward Hathaway*

Fr. Edward Hathaway, Rector

*Daniel V. Cinalli*

Mr. Daniel Cinalli, Principal