



## PRESS RELEASE

### St. Joseph Catholic School Successfully Launches Strong Distance Learning Program

**Auburn, California - March 25, 2020** - Like all local schools, St. Joseph Catholic School has temporarily closed their campus for the safety of students and teachers. Despite this, the SJCS community continues to thrive in all aspects because of the proactive steps taken by school leadership in the weeks prior to the campus closure.

“We saw the writing on the wall and did not want to be caught off guard as we knew how devastating that would be to our students,” stated Jenny Oliver, principal at St. Joseph Catholic School. “We quickly adapted and implemented the curriculum to ensure there was no disruption to student learning.”

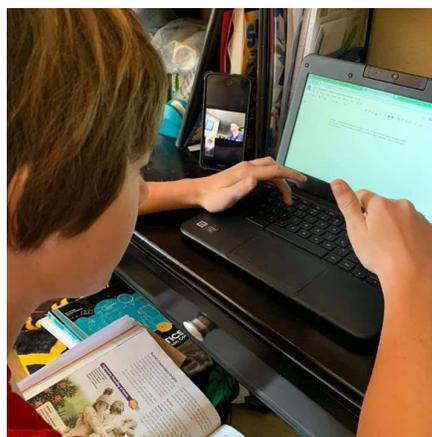
The SJCS teachers implemented an active Distance Learning program on Monday, March 16 not missing a single academic day of instruction. From kindergarten to 8th grade, students have continued with all aspects of their education. Core subjects including reading, language, math, social studies and science continue so that students stay on track with meeting state requirements. The enrichment courses that make the program strong continue as well. Students are still receiving all of their instruction in Spanish, art and physical education.

“I cannot emphasize enough how much I admire the commitment, dedication, and initiative the staff at St. Joseph have all demonstrated as we transitioned to our Distance Learning Program,” continued Oliver. “We are grateful that distance learning is made possible by combining technology and human creativity.”

Parents and guardians are happy with the success of the program as well. While distance learning is new territory for most, the preparedness and organization of the SJCS teachers has helped ease any uncertainty.

“We receive daily communication from the principal and teachers - even the Superintendent has reached out,” Natalie King, a SJCS parent, commented. “I’m confident that they are doing everything they can to meet my child’s academic needs during this time.”

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Students use technology for academics and to connect with teachers and classmates during SJCS distance learning program. Virtual learning classrooms have been set up for video instruction from teachers.



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St. Joseph Catholic School remains a cohesive community during this time of social distancing. The older students and their teachers connect daily through online learning, video group chats, and Skype sessions. Teachers are reaching out with phone calls, texts and personalized notes to check in on both students and their parents. There was even a virtual recess with Principal Oliver via Zoom.

“My daughter’s (1st grade) teacher sent her a personalized email with comments about each of her completed assignments last week,” continued King. “We are blessed to be part of such a wonderful school community.”

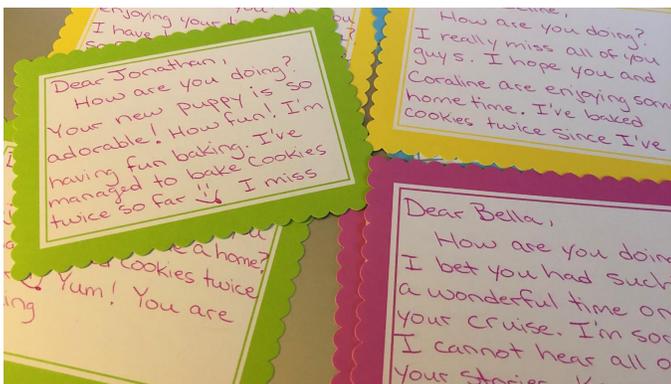
School families remain engaged with one another through the school’s private social media groups and Google Meet. These platforms have allowed parents and guardians to share photos, videos, ideas, and most importantly seek support. With so many events and activities canceled these networks of support, previously a secondary means of communication, have become critical in a time of social isolation.

The Diocese of Sacramento, which oversees all Catholic schools in the region, has closed all physical campuses until at least April 20th, but the school community is most certainly not closed. As with other Catholic schools in the region, the SJCS staff is diligently prepared for the upcoming weeks of distance learning.

### About St. Joseph Catholic School:

Since 1943, St. Joseph Catholic School has been educating preschool - 8th grade students in the Auburn area. They foster academic excellence and character development in a faith based environment. SJCS employs credentialed teachers and is accredited by the Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC). SJCS is currently enrolling for the 2020-2021 school year.

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Personalized notes from a teacher to her students. Communicating via mail during a time of social distancing has become an important way to stay connected.



A SJCS student settles into her new routine with the launch of distance learning program.

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