

St. Jude Catholic School

First Quarter Update



SJCS... BY THE NUMBERS

Preschool - 8th grade students enrolled for in-person education **265**

Students chose full-time eLearning **5**

Families opted to home school this year, with the promise to return next year **4**

New lay staff members hired to support our growing school **4**

Three months of in person, full time, Five days/week learning **3**

Sr. Mary John and Sr. Theresita were reassigned, and we welcomed 2 new Sisters, teaching Kindergarten and Middle School Religion **2 for 2**

Zero reported Coronavirus cases among our staff or students through October 15! **0!**

WE ARE STRONGER TOGETHER

In June 2020, three months after St. Jude moved to online eLearning in the face of the Coronavirus, discussions began on what the year at St. Jude Catholic School might look like. Parents and staff were surveyed about their preferences and concerns for the coming year, and the response was a resounding YES in favor of in-person education for the 2020/2021 school year! Many questions remained, most importantly, "How do we reopen in the safest and most comfortable way possible for our students and staff?" The students' adaptability to all the safety protocols while still learning and growing was top of mind for all of us.

As a result, a team of 30 engineers and technology experts, health care, maintenance and cleaning professionals, teachers, parents, and staff were invited to take part in our Reopening Committee to address these questions. Led by three local

physicians, who are also St. Jude parents, the committee met to formulate a plan. With our doctors guiding us through all the CDC and health department directives, teaching us about the virus and recommending best practices, our plans quickly came together. On July 2nd, our reopening plan was approved by the Office of Catholic Schools, and was shared with teachers, staff, and families. The work began to prepare for our first day of school on August 12.

With perseverance and God's grace, our teachers and staff set to work, sacrificing their summer break to transform our school and classrooms. We opened our doors on a bright, sunny August morning and welcomed back the precious faces we hadn't seen in five months. It was a powerful day of reunion and gratitude, one that will remain in our hearts and minds for years to come.



8th Grade Graduation:

Although three weeks later than planned, we were delighted to offer in-person graduation on June 8th.



High School Graduation:

Our very first graduates, the St. Jude class of 2016, graduated from high school this year.



Sacraments:

August was a joyful and grace-filled month as we celebrated (albeit a bit late) three First Communion Masses at St. Jude, and Confirmed 46 students at the Cathedral of St. Mary.



Our first school Mass with all students in attendance was celebrated outdoors at St. Albert's, our temporary parking lot chapel, on August 14.



OUR BRIGHTEST MOMENTS



WHAT'S CHANGED AT SJCS?

- **Wellness checks are performed each morning:** Everyone entering the building has a temperature check and quick stop at one of our sanitizing stations to clean their hands before entering the classroom.
- **Masks inside the building:** Adults and students wear masks except when outdoors or eating. We are extremely proud of our students for complying so beautifully with this new requirement. Even our 3-year-old preschoolers manage this without complaint!
- **Lunchroom safety measures:** Our lunchroom expanded into the parish hall and partitions were added to allow students to safely visit with friends while enjoying lunch without masks.
- **Outdoor learning:** We constructed a new outdoor classroom with bright new picnic tables and umbrellas. This area is in high demand whenever the weather is nice enough to be outside.
- **Sticker safety reminders:** Our floors are covered with friendly safety stickers reminding us to stay safe and socially distant, and assuring we keep traffic moving single-file to avoid congestion in the hallways.
- **Water bottle refill stations:** Thanks to the PTO, the school received six water bottle refill stations. For safety purposes, drinking fountains were disabled. Our refill stations provide a safer and speedier way to keep our students hydrated!
- **Classroom cleaning:** Our classroom and common area surfaces are wiped down several times during the school day and sanitized with antiviral spray each evening.
- **Classroom Redesign:** We've removed bookcases, and in many cases, teacher desks from classrooms to allow students to spread out as much as possible. Most student and staff areas allow for full six foot distancing.
- **Weekly Mass has not changed!** We are still able to participate in Mass and Adoration weekly as a school. Half of our students pray inside the church while the others pray Mass via live-stream, from the classroom. Please join us Friday at 10AM for our live-streamed school Mass on YouTube at St. Jude Catholic Church Peoria.



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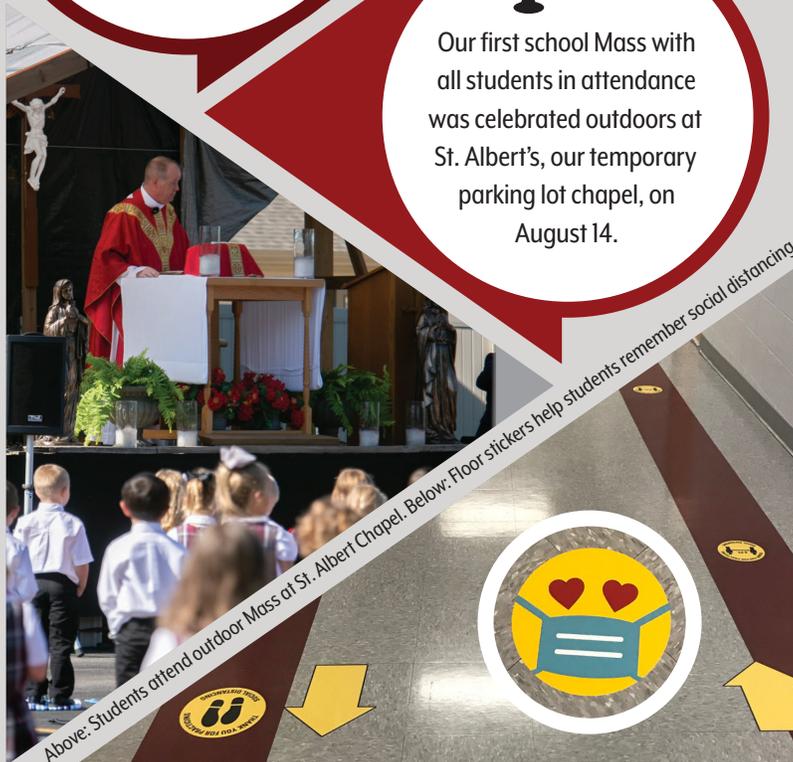


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Above: Students attend outdoor Mass at St. Albert Chapel. Below: Floor stickers help students remember social distancing.

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