



Notre Dame School
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Mr. Tom Jensen
Principal

May 10th, 2020

Dear St. Joseph parishioners:

Fr. Joshy has been ensuring that St. Joseph's ministries stay connected to the parishioners during the shelter in place, and because Notre Dame School is a part of the ministry work of the parish, I wanted to write to you and provide an update on the school's activities over the past months.

The adrenaline levels were high as the teachers, staff, and I met in the Notre Dame library on the afternoon of Friday, March 13th to discuss our transition to distance learning the following Monday. While much has changed in the world since that day, at least one thing has remained the same: our commitment to providing our students with an opportunity to form and develop a relationship with Jesus, and to teach them the content and skills they will need to thrive in their future academic careers.

Our school day begins at 8:00am with a virtual assembly, allowing us to start the day together in prayer. Students regularly meet with their teachers on platforms like Zoom, and they complete instructional activities aimed at continuing their preparation for the next grade level and beyond. We also try to provide them with chances to connect with their fellow students so that they can maintain the classroom community that is all the more important in our current situation.

We have also been able to give back to the community over the past months. At the beginning of the shelter in place, we found ourselves in a position to donate disinfecting supplies to the Vallejo Police Department. More recently we have been able to donate supplies to Mercy San Juan Medical Center in Sacramento. We also participated in the American Heart Association's Kick Cabin Fever to the Curb program, raising funds to help keep hearts healthy. None of this would be possible without the generosity of our school community, for which I am extremely grateful.

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Looking ahead to the future, our registration is open for the 2020-2021 school year, and we have spots in almost every class. With our current projections, we will have room for an estimated 50 new students next year. If you would like to know the status of a particular grade level, please reach out to our admissions team at admissions@notredamevacaville.org and we would be happy to provide you with more information or set up a time to meet with you virtually. Active parishioners at St. Joseph receive a discounted tuition rate as well, and more information can be found here: <http://notredamevacaville.org/admission/tuition>.

I would like to take this opportunity to express my deepest gratitude to the teachers and staff of Notre Dame School. In a mere 48 hours--the span of one weekend--they managed to implement a distance learning plan to ensure that our students did not miss a single day of instruction. I would also like to thank our school parents, who have stepped up and supported us every step of the way. I am very proud of our students' hard work so far, and I want to encourage them to fight the good fight, finish the race, and keep the Faith (2 Timothy 4:7).

Finally, I would like to thank you, the parishioners of St. Joseph. I know you have been keeping us close in prayer, and the fruits of those prayers are seen every day in the life of our school. It has been a unique blessing to be able to continue praying and worshipping with you virtually, and I must commend Fr. Joshy and Fr. Juan Carlos, along with the ministry teams, for providing us opportunities to stay connected as a community.

If you pass by Notre Dame School in the coming days, it may look empty and unused. However, that is just the building, not the school. If distance learning has shown us anything, it is that our school is more than a physical place. It is the teachers, staff, students, parents, and parishioners that truly make it a school, and we are very much still in session.

Please be assured of my prayers for you and your family to stay healthy in mind, body, and spirit.

Our Lady, *Notre Dame*, pray for us.

Pax Christi

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Tom Jensen". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Mr. Tom Jensen
Principal
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