



# Saint John Paul II School

87 South Main Street Middletown, CT 06457 860-347-2978  
www.jpil.org

November 19, 2020

Dear Parents/Guardians,

As I write this letter, we all wish that this pandemic was done. However, it remains a force in our community, state, and country. I can tell you that St. John Paul II remains successful as we continue to have in-school learning 5 days a week. We have made it to Thanksgiving and will continue to be open beyond this great holiday.

We know that the number of Covid-19 cases has increased in Connecticut. We also know that there have been school systems throughout the state that have had positive cases leading to temporary school closures. Yesterday's press conference with the governor and the state department of health produced some good information. The state of Connecticut aims to keep in-person learning on the table as long as possible. Despite the spread of the virus, public health officials in Connecticut have repeatedly said that it does not appear that transmission is happening in schools, but rather schools are being affected by transmission happening in the community. Our students need to be in school unless there is a medical or unique family circumstance. Governor Lamont stated "we all know that it's probably the safest place to be, wearing a mask in a classroom. Certainly, the best opportunity for a good education as well". It is so important that we take the virus seriously and do not let our guard down. I along with our school nurse are in constant communication with the Middletown health department. Here at St. John Paul II, we will continue to follow the guidance that the state and local health departments have given us. I plead with you as parents and guardians to do the same as you are out in the community. It is so important for all of us to continue to wash our hands, social distance, wear a mask, and especially avoid large gatherings, including large family gatherings. It has been learned that these large gatherings have led to rapid spread of infection.


We have sent a survey out to all of you to determine your needs for technology at home. Please respond to the survey as the information will help us finalize plans for distance learning if that becomes a reality. Please know that it is not my intention to close our school and we will remain open unless forced to close by the governor or Bishop Cote. It is Bishop Cote's desire that our Catholic schools remain open with in-school instruction.

As always, my priority is to continue providing our faculty, staff, and students with a safe environment in order to learn and be with their friends. I continue to pray for the safety and health of our entire St. John Paul II community. I also want to wish our St. John Paul II families a very Happy Thanksgiving. You are always in my prayers.

Please do not be afraid to contact me with any questions or concerns that you may have regarding our school operations.

May God continue to bless you and your families.

Sincerely,



Mr. Larry Fitzgerald BS, MS, 6<sup>th</sup> Year  
Principal