



FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear VASJ Family:

As each of us deals with the many complications caused by the “new normal” — realizing, of course, that there is nothing at all “normal” about these strange times — it could be easy to lose sight of the matters that are truly essential in our lives. It is a danger to which we will not fall victim at Villa Angela-St. Joseph High School.

Recently, I was talking about all this with my good friend (and boss), Amy Butler, associate superintendent for secondary schools for the Catholic Diocese of Cleveland. Amy remarked that it is both ironic and fitting that our global challenges are occurring in 2020, a year that conjures an image of perfect 20/20 vision.

On one hand, it can be argued that this year there is anything but clarity of vision in education. Social distancing, hygiene protocols, temperature checks — all are terms and concepts to which we paid scant attention only a few months ago. Now they are part of the culture.

On the other hand, the pandemic has brought the essential character of VASJ and other Catholic schools into sharper focus than ever before. We do what we do — including instituting extensive health and safety procedures in response to the crisis — because our essential character contains not only the arts and sciences, but the values and responsibilities that are connected to them.

No sooner had I had this conversation with Amy than I came to school and found our campus ministers, director Brianna Wilson and assistant director Christin Coughlin, busy at work in the faculty lounge preparing materials for our students’ return. These two dedicated teachers — both teach English as well as coordinate activities designed to enhance the spiritual life of the school — are models of the essential character of VASJ.

You can be assured that they, along with each of their colleagues on the faculty, in the administration and throughout the staff, have a clarity of vision they will bring to your student this year with all the passion, love, determination, care and dedication that inspired you to become part of the VASJ family back when “pandemic” was just a word.

No pandemic will ever fog our vision, or diminish it. If anything, we will keep our eyes on the prize this year like no other year. That is our solemn promise.

Sincerely,

Richard Osborne

President