



Welcome to the 2020-2021 school year. I pray that this letter of welcome finds you and your families safe and healthy. I am pleased to welcome your children back to school, whether it is back to the classroom or through virtual learning. As we begin this year like no other, we have ever seen, our focus will still be to ensure that: every child, every day is finding a way to feel connected, every child, every day is being challenged by new learning and experiences, and every child, every day grows to understand the roots of their faith and their responsibilities as Christians.

This pandemic will not dampen our dedication to provide an outstanding education to our students! Like any new situation it will take time to adjust. Keep in mind this is uncharted territory for everyone. I think we all need some resemblance or normalcy in our lives. While this year will look and feel different, it is a step in the right direction, and we will make it an awesome academic, spiritual, and social year.

Throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, there have been many changes in our back to school plan. We have done our best to keep you informed and updated, but the guidelines provided to schools by the CDC are continuously changing. I anticipate that there will probably be more minor changes. Please know that we have put a plan in place that factors in the safety of our students and staff.

We have focused on safety precautions before, during and after the school day. The safety of our students and staff is very important at John F. Kennedy Catholic School. I realize that you have been asked to make a difficult decision, and I know that you have chosen what is best for your family regarding returning to school or continuing with virtual learning.

What we are asking teachers to do is equally important and difficult. I ask that you demonstrate compassion and patience with the teachers and staff. They have been forced into a different and new way of teaching, and they have spent much of their summertime training and researching how to best teach in this new environment platform of virtual learning while still providing in-person instruction.

We have created a Virtual Handbook and a video on what class instruction looks like virtually. We had 3 days of Google classroom training, training on classroom streaming and Covid safety training. So as you can see it was not much of summer for the teachers and staff, but we did it because we want to provide the best education for your children and keep them safe as well.

It is extremely important that you do not send your child to school with a fever. Also, think about how extra curricular activities and travel may not only affect your family, but the entire JFK family. We all need to work together.

I want to welcome all our new families and thank you for choosing JFK for your child(ren)'s education. Welcome to the family! I look forward to getting to know everyone.

To conclude, please remember that my door is always open to everyone. I sincerely welcome your conversation and input during this year. Let us always keep our students the primary focus.





Principal's Page September 2020

Growth Mindset: **Practice makes perfect.**

Growth mindset will again be an important part of our school community. Last year, we embraced this initiative. We know that a child's belief about intelligence is an important factor in whether they become an effective learner, so being open to their potential for growth is important for success. Continue to focus on growth mindset with your children and it will also be included in lessons. Let's continue to change their fixed mindsets into a growth mindsets.



Hollywood Theme

Lights Camera Action, it is time for an Oscar winning new year. The beginning of a new school year, like the release of a new movie, reminds us that the future holds new and exciting possibilities.

Many of you are returning cast members at John F. Kennedy Catholic School and for the new families, it is a brand-new script on the educational journey with your children. We will continue to refine our proven foundation of good work, honored traditions and continued excellence in education as we direct and inspire our student stars. Personally, I am grateful and happy to continue my journey with you as your principal in a school where every student is a shining star.

New Stars

Each year brings changes. This includes a few additions to our staff. We are delighted to welcome Mrs. Kim Ratkiewicz who will be teaching Spanish and art and Miss Rachel Anderson who will be teaching the 5-day full day 4-year-old Preschool class this school year. We are very excited to have both of you as members of the JFK Teaching staff.

Farewell

Mrs. Vicki Sission our 2nd - 5th grade music teacher will not be returning to JFK this year. Mrs. Sission has done an outstanding job at JFK for many years and will be greatly missed. She shared her passion for music with her students. We wish her the very best, as she embarks on her new journey.



Mrs. Kathy Gagich will not be returning this school year. We wish her restful and healthy year and thank her for touching the lives of our youngest students.

School Hours

Student Arrival Time is
7:45 am – 8:05am.

Dismissal

Preschool is at 2:15pm.

Dismissal for the school is
2:35pm.

Kimberly Stevenson, Principal Email address: kstevenson@jfkatholic.com
Website: jfkatholic.com Phone Number: 724-225-1680



Featuring New Curriculum

We have updated several of our textbooks this year.

These curriculum changes will increase rigor as well as incorporate technology within the curriculum. We added an online Supplemental Spanish Program. We purchased new Social Studies books for 7th & 8th grades. Sadlier math books have been added for 5th & 6th grade.

We have also added the Lab Learner Science Program Preschool – 8th grade.



Outdoor Recess Volunteers

We need 2 volunteers for outdoor recess. You must have your clearances to volunteer. procedures:

Buzz in at the main door wearing a mask.

Your temperature will be taken.

You will report to playground area. Teachers will bring out the class. There will be 2 classes at a time outside.

They will have designated play areas.

Someone will come to get the students for lunch.

The process will then be repeated.



School Virtue is Hope

As we prepare to begin a new school year, our school virtue will focus all of us on Hope. Hope is given to us at our Baptism along with faith and charity to make our relationship with God a possibility and reality. Hope is that supernatural trust in God we all need. If our hope is in anything else, as these months have so vividly illustrated, we will be disappointed, but if it is in God—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit—we will not be disappointed (Romans 5:5). As a school community, our hope is in the Lord Jesus, and John F. Kennedy Catholic School is His school. Therefore, we look forward to starting this new academic year with great hope in what the Lord desires to do in, through, and for our students, our faculty and staff, and the families of John F. Kennedy Catholic School.



Heath and Safety Matters At John F. Kennedy Catholic School

In order to open our school safely and help us to remain open poses new challenges.

Students will be isolated by classroom cohorts, face masks will be required, social distancing will be instituted, and regular cleaning will be the norm. There will be no large gatherings, and the flow of movement will be controlled. Learning, however, will take place as it always has, with modifications to keep everyone safe.

Social Distancing: The goal for students and adults is to stay at least 6 feet apart. When possible, outdoor spaces will be used for instruction. The students will also be given mask breaks outside.

Face masks & hand hygiene: All children over age 2 years and all adults must wear face mask that cover the nose and mouth. In addition, frequent hand washing with soap and water is important for everyone. Hand sanitizing stations have been set up in every room and the hallways.

Classes: In most cases the teachers will move between classrooms, rather than having students fill the hallways.

Students in kdg- 8th grade will eat lunch in the cafeteria. Two classes will eat at a time spaced, 6 feet apart and facing in the same direction. Purchased lunches and drinks will be brought to the children.

Leaving classroom doors open will help reduce high touch surfaces such as doorknobs. Bathrooms will be cleaned hourly.



A Little About Me

Let me begin by introducing myself to the new families. This year marks my 2nd year at JFK School, and I am just as excited for the beginning of this school year as I was for my first one 37 years ago. My husband Rich and I have 4 children, spread across the United States. Dominick, his wife Megan and my grandchildren Kinley, Nicholas and my brand-new granddaughter Emory live in Edmond, Oklahoma. My daughter Dilyn and her husband Tyler also live in Edmond Oklahoma. Dilyn is expecting, and in January my 4th grandchild will be born. Devin, my oldest daughter is an Emergency Department nurse in Mission Hills, California. Delaynie my youngest daughter is a recent graduate from California University with a degree in education.

I love to be outside no matter what the weather. The Lord's beautiful creations never cease to amaze me. I love working in my flower and vegetable gardens and enjoy daily walks. Other passions of mine are reading and visiting antique stores. I love animals and have 2 dogs and 19 chickens.

Facility Happenings:

This summer the school has been a beehive of activity. Numerous maintenance and construction projects have occurred. New roofs have been placed on the school and the cafeteria. Seven cameras and 2 new fob systems were added to the main doors of both buildings. We have our new Lab Learner materials and are awaiting the lab set up. Our smartboards have been hung in the classrooms.

The school has a new cleaning company, and the building looks amazing. Many of the floors have been stripped and waxed. The bathroom tile has been steamed and disinfected.

I want to thank everyone who helped with the moving of materials and furniture from the middle school to the elementary building and back on many occasions. Also, thank you to all the volunteers who helped with the moving of the Lab Learners materials. Thanks to Father Tom for renting and driving the U-Haul.

I want to give a special shout out to Rick Bell who has given so much of his time and expertise in coordinating all the maintenance work. Rick is an alumni and his children attended school here. His love for John F. Kennedy Catholic School runs deep.

Parent Responsibilities & Communication

In order to keep the lines of communication open between home and school we will be using various avenues for information. I understand that everyone is busy, but it is important to read the emails. They contain important information.





Volunteers Hours

Volunteers are a vital part of John F. Kennedy Catholic School. I urge you to share your talents and time with us. Recess and cafeteria volunteers are always in demand. To volunteer complete all required clearances. Volunteers make a difference! Remember that each family is encouraged to earn 30 volunteer hours. Remember you must complete all required clearances to volunteer. If you have any questions email Brianne Thomas at bthomas@jfkatholic.com.

Fundraising

As a Catholic school who strives to keep tuition affordable, we rely greatly on our fundraising profit. This year the school must raise \$200K to meet the fundraising budget, therefore, we are asking each family to sell \$500.00 in profit. Our attendance at events such as the Food Truck Festival, Gala, and Night at the Races, along with participation in purchasing, Lucky Money Calendars SCRIP gift cards, football pools, hoagies, and Sarris candy will help us to be successful. We have a variety of different ways to earn your assessment. Choose the fundraisers which work best for your family. Thank you in advance for recognizing the importance of the fundraising portion of the school budget and taking an active role in reaching the goal. Making our fundraising assessment is vital to balancing the school budget.

JFK Goal Tracker

The JFK Goal Tracker online tool contains all your volunteer hours and fundraising profits. You will receive your password shortly and can check your information at any time. Once an activity or fundraiser is over it takes a few weeks for your information to appear on the Goal Tracker site. Please keep in mind that parent volunteers are inputting the data and it takes time to complete the task. When report cards are issued, you will be asked to go to Goal Tracker and make sure your information is correct. The chairpersons of each event will have the hours and profits recorded. Information will be listed in the November Principal's Page on the fundraisers, volunteer hours, and chairperson names and contact information for the 1st nine-week report. Contact the chairpersons directly if there are any mistakes on your report. There is a 2-week window in which these corrections can be made.

Fundraising Summary

To keep you abreast of the progress the school has made toward our fundraising assessment, a fundraising summary quarterly report will be web blasted at the end of each 9-week period. The information on this form shows the projected and actual profit of the event or fundraiser. Several of the fundraisers are ongoing so you will see changes throughout the year.



Principal's Page

Principal's Page and calendar will be emailed to all families and posted on the school website (www.jfkatholic.com) each month.

Comet Newsletter

This correspondence will be emailed every Thursday. It contains information on the upcoming events. Just a reminder don't respond to this email. Email the secretary, Brianne Thomas at bthomas@jfkatholic.com





New Morning Drop Off & Dismissal Procedures

This year we will change the way students enter the school and are picked up at dismissal. Due to the COVID 19 restrictions we have adopted new policies to allow for social distancing. Please read this information carefully . We appreciate your patience as we implement these new procedures.

We ask that you take your child's temperature at home. It must not exceed 100.4 degrees without the use of medicine. We will also be taking temperatures of all students by as they are dropped off.

Morning Drop Off:

There will 3 doors used for drop off and dismissal until further notice. **Preschool – 1st grade** will **use door #3** by the playground, Signs have been posted marking the one-way traffic pattern in and out this area.

Students in grades 2nd -4th will enter through **door #1**, the main door near the flagpole.

Students in grades 5 – 8 will enter the building through **door #2**, the courtyard doors.

Parents are asked to drive up Ruple Street and drop off their children. No one should be parking in the church lot and walking their children to the school. Parents of Preschool students may walk your child to the entrance of the playground and drop them off. Kindergarten parents are permitted to walk your child to the designated area for the 1st week of school.

Dismissal

Please do not park on the crosswalk because the children will be moving to the dismissal spots. Remember the bus students will be dismissed first.

Preschool students with siblings in the school will be dismissed with their preschool class. Parents then need to move to the car line to pick up your other children.

All parents should wait in their cars lined up on Ruple Street. **Please use the attached alphabet letters to find the first initial of your last name and place it on your dashboard.** It should be on the right or left side of the dashboard, depending on what lane you are using to pick up your child. The displayed letters will help speed up dismissal. The students will be lined in alphabetical order according to the first initial of their last name. There will be cones holding the letters so they will be clearly visible. Attached is a table indicating what side of the street your child(ren) will be on. Please load your children quickly and continue through the line. We will do our best to keep the lines moving but we need your help.

Children will not be able to cross to the opposite side so please be sure you are in the correct lane. If you are in the wrong lane you will need to circle back around

Remember the children will be waiting outside for car rider pick up, please be sure they are dressed for the weather.

Thank you for your cooperation and patience.



JFK Dismissal for kindergarten -8th Grade

RUPLE LANE				
M I D D L E	K L		Parking Lot E L E M E N T A R Y	
	Mrs. Coyle			
	H J	V W		
	Ms. Ames			Miss Brown
	D E F G	S T U		
Mrs. Hone		Miss Janocha		
Church	C	P R		
	Mrs. Porter		Mrs. Marchezak	
	A B	M O		
Mrs. Bonner		Mrs. Matthews		

2020-2021 Staff Roster	Grades & subjects	All email addresses are 1st initial and last name @jfkatholic.com
Father John Lynam	Pastor	jlynam@stjameswashpa.org
Kimberly Stevenson	Principal	
Brianne Thomas	Secretary	
Laurie Bodart	Advancement	
Mrs. Janice Woods	Preschool 4	3 Full Days
Miss Anita DiPaolo	Preschool 4	3 Half Days
Miss Rachel Anderson	Preschool 4	3 Day Half and 5 Day full Day
Mrs. Anna Marie Bonner	Kindergarten	All subjects
Mrs. Amy Porter	Kindergarten	All subjects 7 th & 8 th Grade Reading
Mrs. Lauren Hone	1 st Grade	All subjects
Ms Margaret Ames	2 nd grade	All subjects
Miss Hannah Brown	3 rd grade	All Subjects
Mrs. Rebecca Marchezak	4 th Grade	All subjects & 5 th Grade Social Studies
Mrs. Paula Matthews	5 th Grade	All subjects & 4 th Grade Science, K-4 Gym
Miss. Emily Janocha	6 th Grade HR	6 th Grade Reading, Religion, Spelling & Vocabulary, 6 th -8 th grade Social Studies, Kindergarten, 3 rd -8 th , Computers
Mrs. Christine Coyle	7 th Grade HR	6 th & 7 th Grade Math, Algebra 8 th grade, 6 th – 8 th grade STEAM , kindergarten math (Porter), 7 th grade Spelling and Vocabulary
Mrs. Rebecca Papson	8 th Grade HR	6 th – 8 th grade Science, 7 th & 8 th grade & Kindergarten Religion (Porter), 8 th grade spelling & vocabulary,
Mrs. Joyce Bruno	Middle School	5 th – 8 th Grade English
Mrs. Natalie Florian	Specials	PK -8 th Music, 1 st & 2 nd , Computers, Kindergarten, 4 th & 5 th Grade Art. 5 th – 8 th Grades Gym
Mrs. Kim Ratkiewicz	Specials	K-8 th Grade Spanish, 1 st -3 rd Grade Art & 6 th -8 th Grade Art