

July 23, 2020

Dear JCHS families,

As we continue our preparations for our fall semester of the 2020-2021 school year at John Carroll High School, the health and safety of our students and staff remain our top priority. Over the last few days, our JCHS administration has worked with the Diocesan Office of Catholic Schools to make determinations regarding the start date for the 2020-2021 school year. I would like to thank all of our parents and families who participated in the Diocesan survey I sent out last week on behalf of our Diocesan superintendent; your feedback is invaluable to us. The survey findings, along with additional considerations, have prompted the Office of Catholic Schools to push the start date of school back by two weeks, with a student start date of August 24th. This mirrors the decisions made by both St. Lucie and Indian River County school districts, and I feel that it is a wise choice out of an abundance of caution and due to our need for additional preparation time for our schools. Please note that August 24th will be a half day and orientation for freshmen and seniors, and August 25th will also be a half day and orientation for sophomores and juniors. The first full day of school for all students will be Wednesday, August 26th.

The Diocese has also determined that we will have two weeks of teacher workdays, starting on August 10th through August 21st, to allow for additional time for preparation and planning. Though the start date of school has been pushed back two weeks, John Carroll will have the full number of school days--180--just as we would ordinarily have. While we have been hard at work preparing all summer long, due to the changing nature of this situation, additional time will be very useful to make sure that we have all the necessary supplies, training, and equipment so our school reopening is as safe and seamless as possible.

As stated in Mr. Gelo's attached letter, John Carroll will continue to plan for both a physical reopening of campus for students and an option for at-home / innovative learning for medically vulnerable students on August 24th. Innovative Learning (IL) is John Carroll's at home learning option for approved students whose families have health concerns. IL students will log in to their classes live each day via Google Meets, which is a component of Google Classroom, and must attend a full day of school from home from 8:00 - 2:30 pm. If you are interested in pursuing the at-home option for your student due to health concerns, please reach out to Mrs. Krueger at jkrueger@johncarrollhigh.com to access the At-Home / Innovative Learning Request Form; the deadline for such requests is August 1st. The school will then work through these requests and notify families about approval and more details as to the requirements of this program.

Included in Mr. Gelo's attachment is the revised Diocesan school calendar. While the Diocesan dates serve as a guide, we have created and attached a tentative JCHS revised calendar, starting on August 24th, **subject to approval from the Diocese.** This tentative calendar contains the basic days in school and out of school for you to reference. Please note that this may be subject to further adjustment, but we wanted to provide you with a rough overview of the new dates for the school year today. The dates for important events such as the Baccalaureate Mass, graduation, etc. will be forthcoming, as we will have to rework the entire school calendar. As always, the school respectfully requests that parents plan vacations during the school scheduled vacations and make certain that students do not miss mandatory midterm and final exams.

In summary:

- The revised school start date for freshmen and seniors is Monday, August 24th (half day).
- The revised school start date for sophomores is Tuesday, August 25th (half day).
- The first full day of school for all students is Wednesday, August 26th.
- The number of school days remains at 180 as we normally have.
- At-Home / Innovative Learning is an option for families and students who are medically vulnerable. You must apply by contacting Jess Krueger (jkrueger@johncarrollhigh), complete the Innovative Learning Request form, and be approved.
- Many calendar dates may have changed, including midterm and final exams, and the last day of school. Please see the attached JCHS calendar and plan accordingly. More information on the revised dates for specific events will be forthcoming.

Finally, we have been uplifted by your support and words of encouragement over the past months. The grace you have extended us during this time of uncertainty has provided us the opportunity to create the best learning environment for all of our students while taking advantage of every measure to keep students and their families safe. We remain ever thankful for you, our John Carroll community.

With a grateful heart,

Mrs. Corey Heroux, Principal