



**Saint Raphael School Board
151 Gropp Avenue
Hamilton, NJ 08610**

April 16, 2020

Dear Saint Raphael School Parents,

We pray that you are all staying safe and healthy.

The reason for this letter is to give an update from the School Board to all of the school parents since Governor Murphy declared a State of Emergency and a Public Health Emergency for New Jersey on March 9, 2020.

In accordance with the State's instructions, Saint Raphael School switched to online learning on March 13, 2020. We are pleased to report that teaching and learning at Saint Raphael School have continued, and online assignments and lessons have been proceeding smoothly. Teachers are using Google Classroom to post assignments and Google Meets for live, online lessons, in addition to other approved resources and websites. We continue to strive for the highest academic standards whether via the traditional classroom or the online classroom.

The School Board Strategic Planning committee has held three virtual meetings since the switch to online learning, with our School Board chair and our Finance Board chair in attendance. The SRS School Board and all Board sub-committees continue to hold virtual meetings on a regular basis.

During these unprecedented times, as many families, schools and businesses are experiencing sudden economic hardship, we want you to be assured of the stability of our school not only from the administrative, but also from a financial standpoint. We are diligently working to identify opportunities and resources that will enable us to overcome this challenge. All of our SRS organizations and committees are committed to bridging this financial challenge, and ultimately continue to provide a strong Catholic education for our community.

In that regard, our tuition collection remains strong and we are working closely with Mrs. Cwirko to monitor the school finances closely. The CARES Act signed by the President on March 27th provides aid to both public and non-public schools. Our Diocese is helping to make sure that its Catholic schools receive their fair share of the funds being provided and has been holding large conference calls with all the school principals to provide guidance on how to apply for this aid. Based on that guidance, Mrs. Cwirko is in process of applying for all available aid and grants and actively submitting the necessary paperwork requested.

We are also here to help our parents, just as our School Board, principal, faculty and pastor are working together to continue to provide a quality education. If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to reach out to us. Email addresses are below. In Jesus, Mary and Joseph, I remain,

Humbly yours,

Jerry Delena
School Board Chair, jerry.delena@srsnj.org

Additional emails:

George Rose, School Board Finance Chair, georgesrose@gmail.com

Colleen White, School Board Strategic Planning Chair, colleen.white@srsnj.org

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