



# St. Joan of Arc Catholic School

A CATHOLIC SCHOOL FOR ALL FAITHS

Nationally recognized U.S. Department of Education Blue Ribbon School of Excellence

35-27 82<sup>nd</sup> Street • Jackson Heights, N.Y. 11372

Office: 718-639-9020 • Fax: 718-639-5428

E-mail: [PrincipalSJA11372@gmail.com](mailto:PrincipalSJA11372@gmail.com) • Website: [www.sjaschoolny.org](http://www.sjaschoolny.org)

August 8, 2020

Dear SJA Family,

I hope this letter finds you safe and well.

I am sure you have heard about Governor Cuomo's announcement to open schools in New York State in September. St. Joan of Arc has submitted a Logistical Opening Plan to the New York State Education Office and the Department of Mental Health and Hygiene. We are now awaiting approval. Once we are granted approval, I will share more of the plan with you. I will then schedule several Zoom meetings to discuss the plans with our families and address any concerns you may have. The Diocese of Brooklyn/Queens would like its schools to be open five days a week. It is our goal to provide the safest environment for our students, faculty and staff. I am expecting much information from the diocese, city and state. That information will be sent to you as soon as I receive it.

We are beginning to take as many precautions as we can in preparation for opening in September. It is my belief that working together we can avoid any difficult situation that may arise from the pandemic. *We must work together, that is the key to our success.* We have ordered CDC approved cleaning, disinfecting and sanitizing supplies. We will begin to move furniture to make space in the classrooms, signs and tape are being placed to promote social distancing in the classrooms, hallways, etc. There will be staggered entrance and dismissal times, staggered lunch and break times and limited entrance into the building by visitors. Also, weather permitting the parking lot will be used to get everyone some fresh air. Empty classrooms will be utilized as well. Social distancing and facemask protocols will be implemented. Any further procedures and protocols from the diocese, city, state and CDC will be implemented as well.

Currently, I am working on a survey that will help us to plan further for September. I ask that you fill it out and return it as soon as possible. The survey will ask you several questions. One of the most important questions will be on whether you will be coming to school or if you choose remote learning. There will be an option for remote learning for parents that want their children to stay home. Supply lists will be posted and emailed this week as well as a calendar for the year.

I have recently begun my 22<sup>nd</sup> year in Catholic Education. I can remember my first day in the classroom as if it were yesterday. I was full of energy, grand ideas, and a huge amount of nervousness. However, I had faith that God was there with me to make sure I'd make it out unharmed. I have seen a lot these 22 years but not anything like what we have all been through these last six months. Yet, I still have that faith that God is with us and will help all of us get through this unharmed. ***We are a strong community that can and will get through this. We need to be patient with each other, we need to be flexible and understanding, and we need to have faith that working together as one we will get through this.***

Yours in Christ,

*Raffaele Corso*

Mr. Raffaele Corso, *Principal*

"I plead with you--never, ever give up on hope, never doubt, never tire, and never become discouraged. Be not afraid."

St. John Paul II

