



Friday, Jan. 22, 2021

Hi Everyone,

Today is the end of the first semester. We are halfway through the year, and we are still dealing with the pandemic. Pandemic fatigue has manifested itself this winter in a few ways. The latest has been the question: “When will everyone be back in the building?” Our decision for a hybrid schedule, and for teachers (and students) to have the option to work remotely if it is better for their personal situation, was based on Maine CDC and DOE guidelines for a safe reopening. We prioritized limiting the exposure of our students and staff to the virus without disruption to learning. We have been fortunate that the hybrid model we developed and have been using this year seems to be working.

So far, we have only had one case of COVID-19 which has resulted in students and teachers needing to quarantine. We have not had to lock down or go fully remote due to any outbreaks. At the same time, from everything that we now hear from the CDC, vigilance remains as important as ever. We know it is hard to have so many teachers and students who are remote, but safety continues to be our first priority. Teachers and students have a wide variety of concerns – including elderly parents, underlying health conditions, day care closures, etc. -- that make working remotely the best option for the time being.

That brings us to the question we hear regularly: When will classes return to normal at John Bapst? The short answer is that classes will be more normal when the environment is safer for everyone. That depends on the vaccine and

case counts in the area. According to guidelines revised last week, school staff in Maine will be offered vaccinations between February and April. We look forward to a decline in the number of cases, most likely from a vaccine that will make the environment safe for larger numbers of students and teachers to be together again.

As we begin the second semester, we are looking ahead to making plans for our traditional spring events. These include the many events surrounding graduation, as well as the prom, Distinguished Graduates showcase, and art show. Given the pace of vaccinations, we are taking a Plan A/Plan B approach – one less restrictive and one more restrictive, depending on the state of the pandemic and the safety of our community. Our hope is to plan events with an eye toward finishing this year in ways that restore the sense of community that was lost in last spring's total shutdown while maintaining a safe environment.

Thanks for your continued support. We welcome your input, knowing that by taking the time to be very thoughtful in planning, we will restore the sense of community and togetherness that all of us love about John Bapst.

NEXT WEEK'S SCHEDULE

Monday – Purple Day

Tuesday – White Day

Wednesday – Online Day

Thursday – Purple Day

Friday – White Day

REMOTE STUDENTS

If you have a new class for semester 2, you can pick up textbooks and class materials in the foyer from 8-2 every week day starting Thursday, January 21. If you cannot come between 8 and 2, please contact Ms. Kearns (akearns@johnbapst.org)

MOVING TO REMOTE STATUS, OR RETURNING TO IN-PERSON STATUS

If you would like to change your student's days of attendance or remote status, please contact your counselor.

YEARBOOK NEWS

We will have a yearbook this year. Go to www.jostensyearbooks.com to order one. Deadline is February 25.

We still have **very few photos of students who are remote**. Please follow the steps below to get your photo included in the yearbook.

1. The photo should NOT be a selfie (have someone else take the photo)
2. The photo should be taken against a solid color background facing window light
3. The photo should be VERTICAL and taken from about 6' away and capture about half of the upper body - full shoulders and head
4. The photo should be at least **2MB** and in **.JPG** format
5. The photo should be emailed to yearbookphotos@johnbapst.org and in the subject line you should type your last name, first name/grade (ex. Kearns, Angela/9).

Click here for information on buying a yearbook ad. [Senior Recognition Ad Info for Yearbook.pdf](#)

COVID

If anyone in your household tests positive for COVID-19 or comes in close contact with someone who has tested positive, please contact a school nurse (swaring@johnbapst.org or rolmstead@johnbapst.org).

A reminder that we are following the CDC guidelines for out of state travel, the link is here. <https://www.maine.gov/covid19/restartingmaine/keepmainehealthy/faqs> Please contact the school if you are planning out of state travel.

Have a great weekend!

Go Crusaders!

Dave

Dave Armistead

Associate Head of School