



Friday, Jan. 1, 2021

Good Morning,

Happy New Year! I hope this finds you all safe and healthy as we move into 2021!

Moving into a new year has never seemed so significant. 2020 was the most bizarre year I can remember. I think we all are ready to see what a new year will bring, and we are hopeful it will lead us back to so many activities and routines we enjoyed in a different manner prior to last March. As I have said before, I am very proud of the way our community has persevered through the pandemic. Teachers, students, families, staff and administrators have made our learning platform not just viable, but very successful, given our circumstances. I know we all long for the days of a full return to our building, a full return to our activities, and a full return to our “normal” routines.

While it is exciting to be flipping the calendar, it is important to remember the pandemic is not over. There are still rules and protocols to be followed when doing anything from entering our school building to, hopefully, playing an ice hockey game or competing in a virtual swim meet. We will still need to be diligent with our daily rules. We must continue to do our screenings, wash our hands, report any symptoms, stay socially distant whenever possible, and wear our masks.

In order to have winter sports the rules are no different. We must follow the guidelines and keep each other safe. We will go over all of those rules as we get closer to the beginning of the season. Most importantly, as of today, we are still planning to try to have winter sports activity beginning on 1/11/01. Practice and game schedules are being drafted. Coaches are planning for any potential season in their sport. The athletic department, as a whole, is working to provide any interested student-athlete with a safe opportunity to play a winter sport.

Details about those plans and schedules will be released next week. The winter sports

sign up sheet went out before break. If you have not added your name to that sheet in the column of the sport in which you are interested, please do so. The link to that sheet is listed below.

Through the Community Sports Guidelines the state government agencies are still in control of when and how we are able to practice and compete in athletics. We will continue to keep a watchful eye on any updates to the guidelines and any effect those updates will have on our plans. It is also important to remember that John Bapst will always put the health and safety of our school community above all else. We will continue to monitor the pandemic situation in our own building, in our many living communities, and we will make the best decisions to preserve our health. As any new decisions are made we will do our best to notify you as quickly as possible.

For now, get moving! Work on your own to get in shape, make sure you are on the sign-up sheet, and stay tuned for schedules! Finish up any work during this weekend and be ready to finish the first semester strong!

Again, here is to 2021, and hopefully a great restart of school next week and an eventual return to winter sports the week of 1/11!

GO CRUSADERS!

Coach O

Dan O'Connell–Athletic Director

doconnell@johnbapst.org

<https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1W7KAgLnybynMN6lOfBH5IpEzBEqTtHpVFVfFi0oV6kI/edit?usp=sharing>