

## Learning Through COVID-19

There is no doubt that 2020 has been a challenging year. It has been a year that has changed lives, the way we parent, the way we live, and the way we learn.

The transition to distance learning in March made us rethink everything. The Class of 2020 was congratulated and celebrated in new ways. Our traditional Boogie Blast was rebranded as our first virtual Saints Gala celebration. For the first time, our school was quiet over the summer.

With small class sizes and an amazing and resilient community, we were able to open campus for in-class learning at the beginning of the school

year. “Teachers and administration are constantly thinking outside the box on how to have students work safely together in school, replacing tangible and shared objects with individual projects, and overcoming the teacher-

centric classroom layout required to facilitate a socially distanced classroom,” says Clare Wickenhauser, first year Middle School Social Studies teacher.



Our students and staff have navigated these challenging times with grace and resilience. As we follow The Minnesota Department of Health quarantine guidelines, the classroom and class day can look different each day. “My middle schoolers were able to adjust [to virtual learning] on a moment’s notice,” Kristi Klawitter, Middle School Math teacher, notes.

“Our St. Joe’s families rise to the challenge to support each other and our mission. I have seen incredible compassion from our students who are living and learning through the pandemic during their pre-teen and teen years.”

As Carver County cases rise, we have transitioned to four weeks of distance learning. To support our families with essential workers, first responders, and single parent households, we are providing a care program for students to complete their distance learning at school. We are excited to return to in-class learning with an anticipated start date of January 11th.

