



COLLEGE OF  
Saint Benedict

July 2021

Dear CSB Parents and Families:

Planning is well underway for the new academic year at the College of Saint Benedict! Whether your daughter is a new student or returning, we look forward to her arrival on campus this fall. After this past year, we are very excited to welcome our students back to a much more normal set of circumstances.

Regarding COVID, currently our data shows we are nearing 70% of students being fully vaccinated and 81% of employees. This is excellent and, while we are not requiring vaccinations, we are urging everyone be vaccinated, especially students living in congregate (shared) housing on or off campus. Due to early indications of high vaccination rates, we will not have many mitigation measures in place, especially for those who are vaccinated. We will have some testing requirements for those not vaccinated to protect the rest of the community. Enclosed is more detailed information about the return-to-campus testing plan. Please review this information carefully.

Campus has been very busy over the summer with improvements to our facilities. Construction and renovation in Murray Hall is well under way for the new CSB/SJU Multicultural Center. The interior aspects of the project should be completed before the start of the academic year. A new exterior entrance is being constructed to allow direct access to the Multicultural Center. The renovated space will include a large lounge/assembly space as well as a conference room with TV/Zoom technology. The space will receive colorful, comfortable new furniture similar to that in the recently remodeled O'Connell's Student Lounge in the Haehn Campus Center.

Luetmer, McDonald, Wirth and Zierden Apartments have new furniture including sofas, chairs and computer tables, as well as new furniture in the lounges. McDonald, Wirth and Zierden will also receive new desks and closet storage systems.

We continually invest in improving our facilities to enhance the student experience and can't wait for you to see these latest campus improvements.

Many of our students will be returning early to campus because of their involvement as student athletes, student leaders and student employees. Returning students bring tremendous enthusiasm and energy that lends vibrancy to our living and learning community. We look forward to welcoming your daughter and all students back this August. In the meantime, our team is working hard to create opportunities to bring the community together after this past COVID year. We look forward to developing in-person activities for first-years through seniors.

On our website at [csbsju.edu/joint-student-development](https://csbsju.edu/joint-student-development), you will find the 2021-22 family calendar that highlights various services and activities on our campuses throughout the academic year. It's in a printable PDF format. We hope you continue to enjoy the photos and find the information helpful.

Let me also take this opportunity to address a serious issue. Campus sexual assault continues to be a concern at colleges across the country. CSB/SJU, along with legal counsel, have rigorously reviewed our policy and procedures this past year, making sure we follow all required state and federal legislation. We hope the time never comes when we need to put these procedures in practice. But, because reality calls us to, we at least know that we have a clear policy and thorough process to respond to such unfortunate reports.

We view our most important tool in this area as education – with the goal of prevention. We start this education for all CSB/SJU students during first-year orientation and continue it throughout all four years. We have a robust prevention program called “Bystander Training.” (Your daughter may have already participated in one of these sessions.) There are also numerous opportunities throughout the academic year for students to attend programs and engage in activities that focus on education and prevention.

We firmly believe that if you continue to talk with your daughter about important health, safety and inclusive behavior before she arrives to CSB/SJU, you can help us strengthen her awareness about personal responsibility and good decision-making. But don’t stop there; keep talking to your daughter about her experiences on campus, what she is doing, and with whom she is connecting. If your daughter will be studying abroad, talk to her about safety precautions and ways to keep herself safe while overseas. Parents are often the first to know if something is amiss. Health and safety information will be posted on the Parent Relations website at [csbsju.edu/csb-student-development/parent-relations-csb](http://csbsju.edu/csb-student-development/parent-relations-csb) in mid-August.

I also wish to highlight a new program available this fall to all CSB/SJU students. CSB and SJU have partnered with YOU at College to develop **YOU @ CSBSJU**, a unique and free web portal dedicated to student health, happiness and success. As the first technology of its kind on college campuses, YOU emphasizes individual well-being and self-awareness by dynamically serving up tips, online tools and CSB/SJU campus resources to help students access what they need in the moment, 24/7/365. YOU helps student take charge of their future in three areas — 1) Succeed (academic and career), 2) Thrive (physical and mental well-being) and 3) Matter (purpose and connections). **You @ CSBSJU** will launch soon – please help us encourage your student to create their **YOU @ CSBSJU** account using their CSBSJU email address.

We look forward to your partnership with CSB in ensuring the health, well-being and success of your daughter.

Finally, let me just highlight the dates for Homecoming (Oct. 8-9) and Family Weekend (Oct. 15-17). We have a wonderful schedule of events and look forward to hosting you on campus.

On behalf of the entire Student Development staff, I welcome you back to our campuses and look forward to a wonderful and much more “normal” in-person experience for the 2021-22 academic year!

Community always,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mary A. Geller". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Mary" being the most prominent part.

Mary A. Geller  
Vice President for Student Development  
College of Saint Benedict