

St. John of God Community Services - Archbishop Damiano School

Vocational Rehabilitation Services • Early Intervention • Special Education • Here We Grow Learning Center

For Immediate Release

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**ARCHBISHOP DAMIANO SCHOOL ANNOUNCES
PLANS TO EXPAND SERVICES TO VENTILATOR DEPENDENT CHILDREN**

Among fifteen program supervisors and school nurses, interim executive director Brother Thomas Osorio, OH announced that come this school year, services at Archbishop Damiano School will expand to accommodate children who are ventilator dependent. The announcement came Wednesday, August 3 as Brother Tom lead a discussion group composed of Brothers, staff from Archbishop Damiano School/St. John of God Community Services, and invited guests.

“The needs of the children always concern us, especially those that are currently not being met. Right now, that unmet need is with the children who are ventilator dependent,” Brother Tom said. “Our desire is to welcome these children as students at Archbishop Damiano School.”

As a special needs K-12 school, Archbishop Damiano School continues to serve a number of students with a range of rare and debilitating conditions. Some of which, the school has seen over the years include, Cerebral Palsy, Batten’s Disease, CDKL5, Cri-du-chat Syndrome, Dandy -Walker syndrome, Joubert syndrome, Klippel-Feil syndrome and Mitochondrial myopathies.

“In closing,” Bro. Tom said, “we must follow the heart of our founder, St. John of God, who encourages us each day to think differently, be bold in our response, and to always serve in the manner of hospitality; welcoming all so that together, we can alleviate the distress and anxiety of so many.”

While planning is still in its early stages, Archbishop Damiano School is looking to bring in its first ventilator dependent students as early as this winter.

More information for St. John of God Community Services and Archbishop Damiano School can be found at www.sjogcs.org. To learn more about Archbishop Damiano School and plans to bring on more ventilator dependent children, please contact Brother Tom at (856) 848-4700, ext. 1142.



Photo Caption: Interim executive director Brother Thomas Osorio, OH speaks to staff on the need to bring ventilator dependent children to Archbishop Damiano School at St. John of God Community Services.

About St. John of God Community Services

St. John of God Community Services is a 501(c)3 non-profit, non-sectarian organization with a historic world-wide mission to promote the rights of individuals marginalized by society and to create a hospitable space where people may experience dignity, respect, compassion and trust. Our New Jersey locations provide multi-dimensional services to individuals and families throughout each stage of life. Our programs include a NJ Department of Education approved private school for students with disabilities, early intervention, inclusive daycare and preschool, adult job training and day services, grant-funded job services for people with barriers to employment, therapeutic recreation and clinic services. Rooted in Mission, we see the whole person and build partnerships in support of each person's goals. For more information, please visit www.sjogcs.org.

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