



## Message from the Superintendent

June 30, 2020

**Dear Parents,**

Please know that we are praying for you and your families during these extraordinary times. As we prepare for the Governor's mandate regarding what our brothers and sisters in public education will be doing in regards to the opening of the 2020-2021 school year, we are pleased to introduce to you an overview of our Diocesan return to campus guidelines. The guideline handbook that each school receives in the next two weeks provides the recommendations and requirements for beginning the 2020-2021 school year as determined by the Diocesan Strategic Task Team—a team made up of health care, clergy, and education leaders—and in accordance with CDC and state guidelines. The Catholic School Office and Strategic Task Team is in regular communication with each school leader regarding their school's reopening, and you will receive your individual school's detailed, return to campus plan no later than the end of July.

As seen in the attached document, our planning prioritizes the return of students to in-person learning while reducing health risk. It is foundational to our mission as Catholic institutions to ensure a holistic learning environment that is safe, promotes academic excellence, and provides tangible expressions of the Catholic faith to our students by preserving school traditions and charisms in physical and remote environments.

As the first and primary educators of your children, we value your feedback and input across our 19 schools. Along with our return to campus guidelines, below is a surveymonkey link to anonymously collect your thoughts about what went well and what proved to be a challenge this past quarter, and get your ideas and perceptions as each school solidifies their individual school plans for the upcoming year. If you have a student in a special needs program at your school, you will receive an additional survey in the next few days as we want to ensure that we fully capture how best we can serve this important population of our school family.

Lastly, these are challenging times. However, let us remember the wise words of St. John Paul II, "Do not abandon yourselves to despair. We are the Easter people and hallelujah is our song." We are fortunate to have our faith, our Christian community and our God to provide the foundation from which to educate and inspire our children and students. We are one Church, and together we will continue to grow closer to Christ and to each other.

**Survey Link:** <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/QQYGMHG>

In Christ,

**Gregory P. Monroe, Ph.D.**  
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