



ONE CHURCH  
ENCOUNTERING JESUS  
EQUIPPING DISCIPLES  
LIVING MERCY

August 10th, 2020

Dear Catholic School Parents,

Thank you for your ongoing support and dedication to the endeavor of providing a catholic education to your children. We are honored to be in this partnership with you. As you are well aware, the circumstances surrounding the pandemic has created an environment of extreme uncertainty. I wanted to provide you with some information and assure you of our ongoing concern for the well-being of your students and our staff.

The optimal scenario for our students' educational advancement and social-emotional well-being is to return to a full face-to-face instructional model. However, we also recognize the on-going requirement to balance those educational needs with the competing needs of a pandemic. There is nothing easy about these circumstances. Yet we have to make decisions with an awareness of the constant changing nature of the situation. The desire to return to school allows us to take the first steps to develop positive relationships between teachers and students, establish effective school and classroom routines, find success in our established protocols, and work towards normalcy for our children

As each of the 70 Catholic schools within the Archdiocese of Omaha share their reopening plans with their school communities, the plans will look different at each school depending upon the area of the archdiocese where the school resides and the level of community spread in the area. Those plans are subject to change based on updated guidance from local health officials. Some of our schools will be able to remain in a full face-to-face instruction, while others will adapt to a hybrid 50/50 instructional model, and others may need to enter into full remote learning instruction. Our schools have been making plans for each of these instructional models over the course of the summer.

We acknowledge that there are families who have medical concerns about returning to the building, and our schools will have alternative learning opportunities to accommodate your needs. Please contact your school for details of what those alternative learning opportunities could look like for you.

I can assure you that all our schools have safety measures in place to limit the spread of the virus. Those measures include social distancing, mask wearing where and when necessary to reduce contact, and frequent sanitizing practices throughout the building. Elementary students will be



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kept in cohorts and will have limited interactions with other groups of students to reduce the amount of contact. High schools will have increased measures in place to ensure social distancing and require students to wear masks.

As we continue to learn more about the COVID-19 virus, please know that your Catholic school will follow directed health measures and recommendations from the health experts in their communities. The health and safety of your children will continue to be our priority as we return back to the classroom. Also know that your Catholic school community is in our prayers during this uncertain time.

We thank you for your continued support of our schools and our mission - to create disciples of Jesus who will go out and proclaim the Gospel.

Sincerely,

Vickie Kauffold  
Superintendent of Schools  
Archdiocese of Omaha