



ARCHDIOCESE OF  
**NEW ORLEANS**

Catholic Education and Faith Formation

August 2, 2021

Dear Catholic School Parents/Guardians,

As I wrote to you last week, the beginning of the 2021-2022 school year is coinciding with another wave of COVID-19. Today Louisiana Governor John Bel Edwards announced that he was reinstating the mask mandate for our state, and all of our schools will comply when they open their doors for the school year. Regardless of vaccination status all faculty, staff, and visitors to our school campuses must wear a facial covering while indoors on campus. In addition, per the most recent Orleans Parish mandate, students ages three and above must wear a facial covering while indoors on campus. In all other civil parishes (i.e. Jefferson, Plaquemines, St. Bernard, St. John the Baptist, St. Charles, St. Tammany and Washington Parishes) students ages five and above must wear a facial covering while indoors on campus. We must follow all mandates of state and local civil authorities or risk not only the health of our school communities, but our operations as well.

It is our goal to maintain in-person learning on our campuses in a safe and healthy environment. Our schools will implement personal hygiene protocols and continue with their cleaning and sanitizing practices as we face this new surge. I ask you to please do your part to monitor your children for symptoms of COVID-19 and take the necessary actions and precautions when necessary. Schools will be releasing opening plans to parents, and I encourage you to speak with your school leaders with any questions or concerns specific to your school.

In addition to the incredible commitment of our Catholic school educators to our programs for faith formation and academic excellence, I continue to be inspired by their work to create safe and healthy environments for our students. Please join me in thanking our school leaders, our faculties, and our staff members for making the start of the school year possible.

Let us continue to pray for the health and well-being of our families, school communities, and our community at large.

Sincerely in Christ,

Dr. RaeNell B. Houston  
Superintendent of Catholic Schools  
Executive Director, Department of Catholic Education and Faith Formation