

Dear Christ the King Catholic School Community,

I have made the decision to maintain Christ the King Catholic School's present distance learning program, in consultation with Father Paulson Mundanmani, until reviewing all indicators upon returning from Christmas break -- namely January 2021. Thank you to all Christ the King Catholic School stakeholders who participated in our most recent surveys as results are reflected below:

- Disaggregation of the data produced from a survey of faculty and staff showed the following: 17.9 percent when in County's "red tier", 21.4 percent in "orange tier", 32.1 percent in "yellow tier" and 28.6 percent in "green tier". Thus, slightly over 82% percent of our faculty and staff are not comfortable in returning to in-school instruction under Contra Costa County's red tier status when enacted.
- Disaggregation of the data produced from the parent survey showed the following: 38 percent when in County's "red tier", 20.1 percent in "orange tier", 22.6 percent in "yellow tier", and 19.2 in "green tier". Thus, 62% percent of our parent guardians are not comfortable having their children return to in-school instruction under Contra Costa County's red tier status when enacted.

First and foremost, we have not wavered from our mantra: health, wellbeing, and safety are most important during this unprecedented time. Certainly, all stakeholders were considered in today's decision. With the most important aspects surrounding each member of our community and the dignity/safety of life that strongly matches our faith and school's charism.

In addition, such present concerns are as follows:

- Reviewing health metrics and evaluations that forecast Covid-19 cases whereby mortalities into the near future reveal concerning statistics; particularly from this date to the commencement of January.
- Colder and inclement weather is a normal pattern to our seasonal changes/seasonality of the virus; Thus, the propensity to gather indoors will increase aerosol transmission of the virus. Furthermore, we do have members of our school community that are vulnerable to the Covid-19 virus.
- Flu season is commencing and with resistance down and flu contagion traditionally on the rise during this time-span, the probability of having both is compounding, and can pose serious health problems toward increased Covid-19 transmission rates.
- Recent outbreaks in schools, organizations, and college campuses are evident.
- A public vaccine is not available and would be optimal.

- Presently, our distance learning plan is strong and we would certainly agree not most ideal long-term. However, we have important distant learning routines, structures, programs, norms, policies, and outcomes in place that provide stability and safety during these most challenging times. Especially, if we opened up and were then forced to pivot quickly to close again, which seems to be a possibility in the next few months. Not to mention, placing us all in harm's way toward a possible second wave of this wretched and unpredictable virus.

Thank you for trusting us and entrusting your children to our care. Each of you holds a very special place in our hearts and vocations as Catholic educators.

Your support is valued as we continue to pray for each of you, and your loved ones, in hopes that we can soon return to school safely.

Mr. Joseph M. Silveira  
Principal  
Christ the King Catholic School