



THE DIOCESE OF COLUMBUS

June 16, 2020

Dear Catholic School Families of the Diocese of Columbus,

I am writing to you at the conclusion of an extraordinarily challenging school year, when what began as a three-week interruption turned into a ten-week marathon. Throughout that time, our outstanding principals and teachers kept Catholic education in our Diocese vibrant from a distance, and for that I am truly grateful. I would also like to sincerely thank all of you, the families of our Diocese, for all that you did to support your children and your schools during this time. The demands put upon you were not easy, but we remained united in our faith and have brought the year to a close.

There are still many questions about what will happen with school this Fall. Let me assure you that our hope and prayer is to return to normal operations to the fullest extent permitted by the best health and safety regulations from the State of Ohio, the Ohio Department of Education, and the Ohio Department of Health. The principals, teachers, and staff of the Office of Catholic Schools want to see our students back in their classrooms and back to learning in-person.

In order to prepare for the return of our students this Fall and for the possibility that learning may again be interrupted by a resurgence of the pandemic, a Task Force composed of principals, teachers, school nurses, and Diocesan staff has been formed to prepare a guidance document. I have summarized the key points of this document for you on the attached executive summary.

Once again, thank you for your commitment to Catholic education. Despite these uncertain times, our mission remains the same. We are committed to forming disciples of Christ, challenged to lead our students, and schools to an education that fully encompasses the whole child – mind, body, and soul. We are communities anchored in prayer that will persevere through all difficulties we may encounter.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Adam J. Dufault
Episcopal Moderator for Education
Superintendent of Catholic Schools