

THE ROMAN CATHOLIC
ARCHDIOCESE OF ATLANTA



June 22, 2020

Dear Archdiocesan School Communities:

As previously communicated, The Office of Schools of the Archdiocese of Atlanta assembled a Task Force to make recommendations for the reopening of our schools this fall. As part of our “Re-Opening” plan we must set health and safety protocols for our students, employees and facilities. We look forward to working together with our families to ensure the well-being of our communities.

We are hopeful that we will open all schools in August, 2020 as planned. We look forward to spending the year learning and growing together on our respective campuses. Our schools are also preparing for the possibility of hybrid instruction if required. In this model, students would alternate between on-campus and remote learning. We are also cognizant of the needs of medically fragile students and of those who may need to continue learning at home for the present time. Plans are being developed to meet the needs of those students and families within the capabilities of each school. Above all, our archdiocesan schools will continue to provide the excellent education and faith formation that is expected of our schools.

The “Re-Opening” Task Force anticipates providing an Infectious Disease Policy and specific protocols to each of our schools in the next few weeks. At that time, each school will assemble their own local task force to determine how best to facilitate the “re-opening” of their building. Protocols will include specific procedures for cleaning and disinfecting facilities, promoting healthy hygiene practices and clinic operations, standardized processes for students and staff who may become ill, and public health guidelines regarding the usage of face coverings, temperature checks and health screenings. Specific to each school in relationship to school size, additional plans for limiting visitors and volunteers in the building, staggering arrival and dismissal processes, creating class cohorts, adjusting lunch and recess schedules, and the use of larger spaces are among other considerations that may be adjusted to ensure the health and safety of the entire school community. All schools will modify events, co-curricular and extra-curricular activities, and celebrations as necessary to comply with recommended limits on

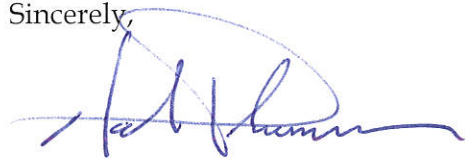
crowd-size while adhering to social distancing guidelines. Additionally, our high school athletic departments will follow the Georgia High School regulations for all practices and sporting events while also following any additional guidelines from the Office of Catholic Schools.

Many parents have asked how they can help in our efforts to plan for the safety of our students and staff. We are grateful for your assistance and recommend the following:

- Practice recommended handwashing and health protocols with your children at home prior to the beginning of school. These protocols include discussing the importance of social distancing and practicing wearing a face covering if recommendations warrant.
- Follow stated school guidelines for attending school and act with caution in sending children to school if you suspect illness, this includes keeping our nurses informed of any illness.
- Ensure that your family follows quarantine procedures if you have been exposed to anyone with the virus or if you have traveled to an area which is identified as a hotspot by the CDC.
- Be patient with changing protocols and recommendations as we will continue to keep the safety of our students and staff as a top priority for our schools.

We are most grateful for the continued support of our families during these trying times. We recognize your commitment to Catholic education and we are grateful for the partnership we hold with parents in educating the children entrusted to our care. May God continue to bless our students and families and may He continue to bless our schools.

Sincerely,



Hal Plummer, Superintendent of Schools



Patty Childs, Principal of Saint Jude the
Apostle
Task Force Co-Chair



Lauren Schell, Principal of Holy Redeemer Catholic School
Task Force Co-Chair