



## OFFICE OF CATHOLIC SCHOOLS

### ROMAN CATHOLIC DIOCESE of ORANGE

13280 CHAPMAN AVENUE, GARDEN GROVE, CA 92840

Dear parents and guardians,

On behalf of administrators, teachers and staff - welcome to a new school year! I am excited to have joined the Diocese of Orange as the new Superintendent of Schools. Our teachers and staff are committed to ensuring every student is provided with a Catholic education that prepares them to excel in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century. I am so proud to be a part of this effort.

We work tirelessly to make sure our students learn in an inspiring, faith-centered environment that is engaging, compassionate and, above all else, safe. I, along with Most Rev. Kevin Vann, Bishop of Orange, have a steadfast commitment to upholding a safe environment across the Diocese so that our students are free to worship and learn without any threat of harm. Some of our safety measures include:

- Requiring mandatory Safe Environment training for all adults – including clergy – who work or volunteer with children and youth, as well as Safe Environment training for children
- Conducting extensive and comprehensive background screening and fingerprinting services for all priests, deacons, educators and all other adults working with children and youth in parishes and schools
- Requiring parish and school sites to maintain accurate records of fingerprinting and background screening and Safe Environment training, to ensure all required employees and clergy adhere to the diocesan-wide requirement
- Training and supporting parish and school onsite Safe Environment trainers
- Incorporating safety education programs into curriculum at schools and parishes. These programs provide age-appropriate education for our children and information for teachers and parents

To learn more about our work to keep children safe, please visit the Diocese of Orange Office of Child and Youth Protection webpage at: <https://tinyurl.com/OCsafeschools>

As an educator, parent and proud product of Catholic schools, I believe strongly in the mission of our schools and the importance of being able to connect with children through the lens of faith. Now, more than ever, our children need that.

I am blessed to join the Diocese during an exciting time of growth, and look forward to the journey ahead. As we begin this school year, I invite you to pray for all those involved in the ministry of Catholic education. We are committed to living out the evangelizing mission of the Church through our Catholic schools and creating future leaders – not only for the Church, but for our world.

Yours in Service,  
Erin Barisano, Ed. D  
Superintendent of Schools  
Orange County Catholic Schools