



FAITH IN OUR FUTURE

REOPENING OF CATHOLIC SCHOOLS FOR THE DIOCESE OF PEORIA

With the permission of Most Rev. Daniel R. Jenky, CSC, Bishop of Peoria and Most Rev. Louis Tylka, Coadjutor Bishop of Peoria, the 42 diocesan Catholic elementary and secondary schools in the Diocese of Peoria will reopen for the 2020-2021 academic year.

The **Office of Catholic Schools' Diocesan Plan** includes guidance on health and safety, human resources, finance, and communications and provides two options for families in which to enroll their student(s) for instruction: 5-days per week in-school or 5-days per week via online learning.

This reopening plan was written with the guidance of: 1) medical community representatives in the Peoria and Bloomington-Normal areas; 2) the five Illinois diocesan Catholic schools' superintendents; 3) the principals of the Diocese of Peoria; 4) guidance documents from the Illinois Department of Public Health, the Illinois State Board of Education, and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention; and 5) the Vicar General, the Chancellor and Diocesan Attorney, and the Superintendent of Schools in the Diocese of Peoria.

There are three guiding principles of the *OCS Diocesan Plan* for the reopening of schools:

1. Our school buildings will provide a safe and faith-filled environment for our students.
2. The course of the pandemic in Illinois remains fluid. As such, the *OCS Diocesan Plan* may be updated on a continual basis as pandemic data and guidelines are regularly reviewed.
3. Our school families will be asked to serve the common good and to work in cooperation with not only their diocesan school but also with the Office of Catholic Schools to the best of their ability.

In addition to these guiding principles, employees and students will be required to wear masks, social distance, practice proper hygiene, and be temperature-scanned throughout the school day. More details that pertain to the health and safety of our schools can be found in the *OCS Diocesan Plan* that will be published on the Catholic Diocese of Peoria's website (www.cdop.org) and the schools' websites.

For more information about the reopening of the Catholic schools in the Diocese of Peoria, please contact an individual school's principal or the Superintendent of Schools.

July 23, 2020