



THE DIOCESE OF COLUMBUS

February 5, 2021

Dear Families of the Catholic Schools of the Diocese of Columbus,

Across the nation, this week has been celebrated as Catholic Schools Week, recognizing all who make Catholic education possible for nearly 2 million children. Here in the Diocese of Columbus, our schools honored our pastors, principals, teachers, staff members, and families with a special gratitude for all that they have done to keep our schools open and safe. This year, Catholic Schools Week will also mark the time when most of our school faculties will receive their first vaccination shot against Covid.

Many thanks go to the State of Ohio for recognizing the important role that educators have played during the pandemic and for making them eligible early on in the roll out process. The vaccine, deemed morally acceptable by our Catholic Church, is optional for all educators, though I anticipate most will receive it.

It is important to note that these first shots – and the second one to follow during the week of February 22 – do not mean that the pandemic is suddenly over. Our schools will not return to normal right after vaccinations are complete. Instead, we will continue to monitor the guidance from the CDC and work with the Ohio Department of Health and local health departments. We will continue to follow the same safety protocols that have allowed us to remain open since August and require mask wearing, maintaining physical distancing, enhanced sanitation procedures, and strict policies for remaining out of school when ill.

That is not to say that it will always be this way. Quite the contrary. It is the hope and prayer of every educator to return to a normal school experience. But, we must do so cautiously and with the same diligence that we have used thus far. I am grateful for your continued patience and for your support of all that our schools have asked of you. It is only because of our strong partnership that we have been able to continue to provide your children with an outstanding Catholic education this year.

Please continue to adhere to the guidelines communicated by your schools. If we all do this, I remain confident that we can keep our students learning and return to normal soon. Thank you for doing your part.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

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