



November 24, 2020

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

Without a doubt, this has been the most challenging school year of my career in education, a statement that I am certain is true for every educator in the schools of our Diocese. Since the beginning of this pandemic, the schools of the Diocese of Columbus have been dedicated to maintaining an education for our students that is as close to normal as possible under health and safety guidelines.

However, maintaining this standard has required tremendous and heroic work on the part of every administrator, teacher, nurse, aide, secretary, custodian, and every other staff member who makes Catholic education possible. It has also asked a great deal of every family in our school community. The sacrifices made this year have been tremendous, and I am so grateful to everyone. I sincerely thank you all for making our school year possible.

I want to keep our schools open and serving your students as long as it is safe to do so. In order to do this and as we head into the holiday season, I must ask for your cooperation with the health and safety guidelines that have been put in place by the CDC and the State of Ohio. This Thanksgiving, please consider celebrating at home with your immediate family. Please continue to follow the basic guidelines:

- Everyone who can safely do so should wear a mask.
- Make sure everyone washes their hands frequently and uses hand sanitizer.
- Whenever feasible, stay 6 feet away from one another.
- Regularly disinfect frequently touched surfaces.
- If you are sick, remain home and stay away from others as much as possible.

If you do travel, please consult the travel advisory websites of the CDC and the State of Ohio and please be in communication with your school administrators and nurses. If the area to which you travel has quarantine restrictions in place, you must comply with them.

If we all commit to follow these guidelines, I am confident that we can keep our students learning in the same Tier 1 and Tier 2 settings that have worked so well this year. Thank you for doing your part.

I wish you a blessed Advent and a very happy Thanksgiving!

Sincerely yours in Christ,

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