



DIocese OF KANSAS CITY - ST. JOSEPH

One Family: RESTORED IN CHRIST - EQUIPPED FOR MISSION

OFFICE of CATHOLIC SCHOOLS

July 10, 2020

Dear Parents,

Looking forward to the 2020-21 school year and beyond, the Kansas City-St. Joseph (KCSJ) Diocesan schools/centers are resolved to do everything we can to reopen our campuses this fall because we believe doing so is in the best interest of our students. The COVID-19 pandemic presents the most serious public health crisis the world has experienced in generations. And yet, we recognize that the KCSJ Diocesan schools/centers need to find a pathway for reopening our campuses safely with the health and well-being of our entire community in mind.

Over the past several months, a team of educators with the help of medical, legal, and mental health professionals have been crafting a template that each KCSJ school/center can use to develop a plan to re-open their school. In crafting the template, the team used the collective best practices from the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), American Academy of Pediatrics, Andrew Greeley Center for Education, the Missouri School Board Association, and the American School in Japan. Soon, we will share that template with the school principals, presidents, and pastors. They will be asked to submit their plan to a team of diocesan officials for review in order to assure the plan considers all aspects necessary to maintain students' safety and health. Once reviewed and, if necessary, revised, schools will share their plan with parents towards the end of July or first of August.

The safety of our students, faculty, and staff, as well as their families and friends, is a value we all share. We expect to keep our children both physically and emotionally safe in our schools/centers. While it is possible that students and staff may be exposed to Covid-19 during the course of the day, it is vital everyone knows every reasonable precaution will be taken to ensure their safety.

In some communities, measures taken to prevent Covid-19 infection have ignited conflicts between the liberty of individuals and perceptions of the common good. We do not expect this tension to be reflected in our community. While some see the risks as low, others may be concerned about coming to work or sending their children to school during uncertain times. As a Catholic community, we must respect one another. Members of our school/center communities and visitors to those campuses will:

1. Wear masks, wash hands regularly and follow physical distancing norms when needed.
2. Take responsibility for maintaining a healthy environment.
3. Treat others as people worthy of respect and deserving of a safe environment.
4. Follow self-screening guidelines for symptoms of illness and refrain from coming to the school/ center if symptoms are evident.
5. Comply with self-quarantine guidelines after potential exposure to Covid-19 or travelling to "hot spots" as identified by CDC guidelines.

We all need to be patient and consider how our actions affect those within our community as we continue to spread Christ's love.

Sincerely,

Dr. Dan Peters
Superintendent of Schools
Kansas City-St. Joseph Diocese