

Dear Parents,

I hope that you and your family are enjoying your summer. It has been an extraordinary year as we navigated together through times of uncertainty and challenges due to the coronavirus. I would like to thank each of you for your continued commitment to Catholic education and our family of faith. I pray you continue to be surrounded in God's blessings.

My team and I at the Office of Education, along with each of your school Principals and local community leadership teams, have been prayerfully and thoughtfully working to develop individual school health and safety plans to return your children safely to school this Fall. Each plan has been reviewed and approved by the Office of Education and your school will be sharing the details of their plans this week. Our school plans include professional collaboration and teamwork. By the grace of God we are ready to welcome our students back to school with confidence.

As the primary and first educators for your children, I believe that your choice of Catholic Schools as the best option for your child will remain true in the year ahead. **This includes every school having in person and virtual options depending on your family's needs.**

The primary purpose of the individual school plans is to outline critical steps taken by each school, such as social distancing guidelines, cleaning and sanitizing procedures, food service plans, and the creation of targeted health procedures. All instructional planning is subject to change depending on state and local health and safety guidelines between now and the start of the school year. The Catholic Schools in the Diocese of Allentown will monitor those changes and remain flexible while ensuring the ability to transition smoothly between in-person and remote learning.

Our key priorities this year – **Safety, Presence and Growth** – were developed using the feedback you provided in the spring parent survey.



SAFETY COMES FIRST.

- Cleaning and sanitization in every building are a priority and have been upgraded with regular and rigorous protocols.
- Our community of parents and educators will work together to screen students daily and ensure healthy students come to school.
- Faculty and staff will be screened for health each day prior to the start of work.
- Face coverings (masks/shields) will be worn by all students, faculty, and staff in our buildings unless a safe social distance of 6 feet can be achieved.
- Only essential visitors will be permitted and screened for health prior to entry.
- At every opportunity possible, our schools will work to maximize social distance between students, faculty, and staff by changing classroom seating, hallway and bathroom traffic, and reducing the use of communal spaces where possible.
- School buildings will include stations for hand sanitizing with signage throughout as regular reminders for safe spacing, hand washing, and awareness for any symptoms of illness.



PRESENCE MATTERS.

- Our relationship and presence to Christ, and one another, is why our Catholic schools exist.
- We recognize that the best possible option for your child to learn is to encourage and support the teacher-student relationship. Students learn best when they are known and cared for.
- We are committed to having our teachers maintain a virtual presence with your child at home if you should select to return this Fall with remote learning in your school community.
- We will continue to provide authentically Catholic instruction that teaches our students to rely on their relationship with Jesus to embrace their true identity and purpose, to persevere, and to grow no matter what the circumstances they encounter.



GROWTH REMAINS OUR GOAL.

- This summer, many of our schools invested in learning management systems and provided professional development to their teachers and staff to improve upon our academic offerings.
- With that same commitment, we are focused on moving the curriculum forward for your student and fostering growth in their learning – whether in person or through virtual learning.
- We will continue to provide formal student assessment, including grades, to drive our instruction.

Our Catholic Schools remain small, innovative, and flexible enough to meet the individual educational needs for each student. We want all members of our community to be safe, healthy, supported, and learning in a way that meets the needs of your family. We are honored to be your partner in the spiritual, academic, emotional, and social growth of your child.

We look forward to seeing you this Fall!

God bless,

Dr. Brooke C. Tesche

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Chancellor for Catholic Education