



DIOCESE OF ORANGE
DEPARTMENT OF CATHOLIC SCHOOLS
13280 CHAPMAN AVENUE, GARDEN GROVE, CA 92840

2 June 2020

Dear OC Catholic School Families,

I pray that this message finds you and your families safe and in good health.

As stated in my previous letter, we are planning to return to school at our traditional time in August. While we do not know what public health guidelines will be then, our plan is to return to in-person instruction at all of our school campuses. Our priority is to ensure that our students, teachers, and staff can confidently return to a safe and healthy campus that is conducive to teaching, learning, and faith formation. To that end, we are developing re-opening plans that reflect the results of the Diocesan Parent Survey and that also adhere to the health standards and physical distancing protocols we anticipate being recommended by the California Department of Education and the Orange County Health Agency. As soon as we receive guidance from state and county health experts, we will be in a position to finalize our plans. Based on what I have seen so far, our public authorities are taking a practical approach to our response to COVID-19 as they formulate their guidelines.

We understand that families want to know as soon as possible what next year will look like. Your school is working hard to prepare flexible plans that include the following options:

- Full-time return to school with social distancing measures in place
- Hybrid model with a smaller number of students attending alternate days/times
- Continued distance learning model for families who desire this alternative
- Schools will share more detailed information about their plans in the next few weeks.

I also want to take this opportunity to thank all parents who completed our Diocesan Parent Survey. We received a tremendous response from you! Please know that your feedback will assist us in identifying priorities for our Catholic school families and this will shape our plans moving forward. The Department of Catholic Schools team and the Principal Task Force will compile and analyze the data from our parent survey. A final report of our survey findings will be sent to you soon, along with information on what to expect as we re-open our Catholic schools.

As this most extraordinary school year comes to a close, we've witnessed equally extraordinary commitment on the part of our Catholic schools and Catholic school families to ensure the continuation of faith and learning for our children despite a societal shutdown. To our students, parents, teachers, principals, and pastors, thank you for being "Church" when Church has mattered most.

We promise to keep you informed as these plans evolve.

May the Holy Spirit continue to guide us as we journey together towards Christ!

In mission,

Erin C.O. Barisano, Ed. D.
Superintendent of Schools
Diocese of Orange