



July 16, 2020

Dear Parents,

I pray that the members of our school and parish communities are safe and in good health. We are eager for our students to return to their schools and early childhood/preschool centers, and we look forward to partnering with administrators and parents to ensure we return in the safest ways possible!

The partnership and dedication demonstrated during weekly meetings with school principals across the diocese has only reinforced my belief that our Catholic schools are uniquely suited to continue to thrive in these uncertain times.

Protecting the health of our students and staff will require all constituents in our school communities to cooperate with the requirements outlined by the Diocese of Raleigh Office of Education and the administration of your school. Everyone in the community will, in some way, be called upon to make sacrifices to their comfort and convenience for the greater good of having our students back in school. Your ongoing support is greatly appreciated as we navigate these new challenges and opportunities of providing your students with a foundation of a Catholic education.

Principals, in consultation with their pastors, are in the process of finalizing three plans outlining health, hygiene, and instructional protocols. The three plans/scenarios are:

- Plan A: Minimal Social Distancing
- Plan B: Moderate Social Distancing
- Plan C: Remote Learning Only

Following the guidance of the NC Department of Health and Human Services (NC DHHS) announced on July 14, 2020, Catholic schools in the Diocese of Raleigh have been authorized to open under Plan B. The school's logistical and instructional plans (specific to each school site) will be communicated by school administrators to their respective communities.

The Office of Education, schools, early childhood/preschool centers in the Roman Catholic Diocese of Raleigh are utilizing guidance published by NC DHHS on July 14, 2020 in the *StrongSchools NC Toolkit (K-12)* and the *Interim Guidance for ChildCare Settings (6/26/2020)*. These toolkits will continue to be used as a reference to create systems and protocols in preparation for minimizing the spread of the COVID19 virus. Additionally, schools will utilize the current guidance found in the *NC DHHS Interim Guidance for Administrators and Participants of Youth, College, Amateur & Sports Programs*, as well as the requirements of the local league.

As we approach the start of the 2020-2021 school year, the Office of Education, in consultation with Bishop Luis Zarama, will continue to monitor this public health crisis with school leaders and update requirements and recommendations based on the most current data available from the NC DHHS.

In His service,


Lytia Reese
Superintendent

*May your mercy, LORD, be upon us; as we put our hope in you.
Psalm 33:22*