



THE ARCHDIOCESE OF
GALVESTON-HOUSTON



August 10, 2021

Dear Catholic School Families,

The last 18 months have brought us many lessons about coping with a global pandemic and COVID. Everyone has experienced some type of inconvenience, sacrifice, or change in lifestyle, and we have truly embraced the Church's teaching of seeking the common good for our brothers and sisters in Christ, especially those that are poor and vulnerable.

When we sent out previous guidance for the 2021-2022 school year, we stated that masks would be optional and that Pastors/Presidents and Principals would make site-based decisions. Due to the recent increase of COVID cases and in an effort to ensure maximum learning time for students in the classroom, our Catholic schools will be requiring masks while indoors for all students in grades K-12, staff, and visitors beginning on Monday, August 16th. Decisions regarding other mitigation protocols will remain with the Pastor/President and the Principal at each campus. We believe this to be a temporary measure, and the Pastor/President and Principal will continue to monitor the status of COVID and the variants; these reviews will occur frequently.

We are currently seeing rapid increases in COVID cases with the new Delta Variant. Recent findings regarding the Delta Variant show that the COVID vaccine does not guarantee one will not get sick or possibly spread the illness to others, underscoring the importance of mask-wearing. This is a teachable moment for our students to understand what it means to be good followers of Christ and care for others.

We are grateful for the efforts made by school personnel to enable our students to attend in-person learning. As we start our new school year, let us protect all that we have worked so hard to achieve and persevere in our commitment to protect our students. We join together in prayer for peace and healing in our community.

In Him we trust,

Debra Haney
Secretariat Director and Superintendent of Catholic Schools