



DIOCESE OF PATERSON
CATHOLIC SCHOOLS OFFICE

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August 2021

Dear Parents and Guardians,

In less than a few weeks, our schools will open their doors to a new school year. It has been a long journey for all of us and to be able to say we not only survived but we have thrived during this in-person pandemic year is to be celebrated!

This is due, in no small way, to you. We need to thank you, our parents, for trusting and supporting your child's Catholic school.

The unparalleled commitment and dedication of our administrators, teachers, and staff was wholeheartedly invested in order to ensure that all the students received an excellent, faith-based education in a healthy and safe environment. Working together, we have provided an environment of learning and joy for our students.

Your schools will be sending you communications regarding the opening of school which will detail any practices and procedures that will be in place for the students this year. Many of them will remain the same as last year with perhaps some minor changes.

A decision regarding masking has been made by the Governor. Executive Order Number 251 was signed on August 6, 2021 and mandates the wearing of masks inside for staff, students, and visitors. This remains in effect until such time as it is "revoked or modified" by the Governor. We will advise you of any changes made. Please understand that this is a mandate made by the Governor. Any efforts and energies to challenge this mandate should be addressed to the parties who made this decision. Your schools can address exceptions to this mandate which will be shared with you.

This year is a Year of Hope. We are all excited to welcome everyone back to their school family.

"We must respond to challenging times with faith, vision and a will to succeed because the Catholic school's mission is vital to the future of our young people, our Nation, and most especially, our Church." (*Renewing Our Commitment to Catholic Elementary and Secondary Schools in the Third Millennium*)

I wish you and your family a year full of God's grace.

Sincerely in Christ,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Mary D. Baier".

Mary D. Baier
Superintendent of Schools