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Memorial of St. Mary Magdalene

Dear Parents and Guardians,

It is with a grateful heart that I welcome you to the 2021-22 school year. Thank you for seeking a Catholic education for your children and entrusting them to the care of our Catholic schools. To all our continuing families, thank you for everything that you did to adapt to the difficulties and new protocols we faced last year. Your cooperation and generous response was critical to our schools' ability to stay open, in-person during the pandemic. If you are new to Catholic schools, "Welcome!" We look forward to serving you and educating your children, mind, body and soul, within our Catholic community.

As we plan for another school year, I want to inform you of our guidelines regarding COVID-19 protocols when school begins this fall. Earlier this month, the CDC updated its [Guidance for COVID-19 Prevention in K-12 Schools](#). After reviewing these guidelines, we are adopting the following:

- Activities will be arranged for students to maintain a distance of 3 ft. from one another whenever possible and practicable.
- Regular sanitizing and hand washing is encouraged for students and staff.
- Students should continue bringing water bottles rather than drinking from a bubbler.
- Schools will continue regularly to sanitize high touch/high traffic areas (desks, doors etc.)
- Masks are optional for students and staff. The decision to wear masks is made at the discretion of the parents/guardian of each child.
- Temperature and health screening reporting is not required, though parents should always monitor their child(ren) for symptoms of illness. Children who develop symptoms at school may be isolated and sent home.
- Parents must keep home any child who has symptoms of illness. Staying home if sick is the most effective practice in stopping the spread of illness.
- Contact tracing protocols will be followed per county/state guidelines.

As we continue to monitor the situation with COVID, each school may introduce additional protocols as needed to address the local situation. As we learned last year, the situation may change, in which case this guidance will be updated as needed.

Thank you again for your commitment to partner with us in the education and formation of your children in knowledge and faith. May God grant you and your family every grace and blessing.

Most Gratefully Yours in Christ,

Michael J. Lancaster, Ed.S.
Superintendent of Catholic Schools