



Catholic Diocese of Columbus

Office of the Bishop
614 • 224 • 2251

August 11, 2020

Dear Pastors and Principals,

The schools of the Diocese of Columbus are first and foremost Catholic schools and represent a critical ministry of our Church committed to forming disciples of Christ through education. As we move into a school year that is fraught with uncertainty, there is no better time than now to ensure that our students will have, to the fullest extent possible, uninterrupted opportunities to engage in Catholic education, including time for religious education, prayer, service, and access to the Sacramental life of the Church.

A good number of our schools and parishes have utilized the resources of Damascus in recent years for retreats. I am pleased to tell you that they have developed a plan to engage our students through on-site retreat days at our schools. I encourage all of our administrators to reach out to Damascus and discuss the possibilities for on-site retreats this year and to also talk with them about the other retreat opportunities being offered at their location. Damascus has been safely and successfully operating camps this summer that have met or exceeded all of the requirements of their local health department.

Thank you for all of the work that you have been doing to keep Catholic education strong during these difficult times. Please know that your work is deeply appreciated by me and by all of the families and children you serve. Be sure of my continued prayers for you and your families.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Most Reverend Robert J. Brennan
Bishop of Columbus