



DIOCESE OF MONTEREY
Department of Catholic Schools

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August 26, 2020

Dear Old Mission School, St. Patrick School and St. Rose Catholic School Communities,

I pray that this letter finds you and your family safe and healthy.

As I am sure you know, our three elementary schools in San Luis Obispo County applied for a waiver to open for in-person instruction for TK through sixth grade. I am pleased to report that each school's waiver application was approved. I would like to thank our principals for their hard work on the schools' operations plans and waiver applications.

In approving the waivers, County Health Officer, Dr. Borenstein, made it clear that at any time during the school year, she may require one or all three of our schools to close and return to all distance learning if COVID-related risks at the school or in the community necessitate such action. Additionally, Diocesan and school administration may initiate the closure of a school, if necessary, to ensure the health and safety of our students and staff.

We will implement our return to campus in a phased approach, and we anticipate **TK through second grade starting back on September 8, 2020 and third through sixth grade starting back on September 14, 2020.** The County is not including seventh through twelfth grade at this time, so they will remain engaged in our distance learning program. A phased approach to reopening will ensure the proper training and implementation of our health and safety protocols for all staff, families and students. Each principal will be in contact with you regarding your school's specific return to campus plan.

The health and safety of staff and students remain our top priority, and we will continue to work together to further the mission of Catholic education during this time. I sincerely appreciate your partnership as we prepare to welcome our students back to the classroom.

In Christ,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Kimberly Cheng".

Kimberly Cheng
Superintendent