



**DIOCESE OF MONTEREY**  
**Department of Catholic Schools**

831-373-1608  
FAX 831-373-0173

[schools@dioceseofmonterey.org](mailto:schools@dioceseofmonterey.org)  
[www.dioceseofmonterey.org](http://www.dioceseofmonterey.org)

September 10, 2020,

Dear Santa Cruz County Catholic School Communities,

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

As I am sure you are aware, the State of California has come out with a new reopening plan for counties. It is a four tier, color-coded phased plan – widespread (purple), substantial (red), moderate (orange) and minimal (yellow). This week, Santa Cruz County has been assigned the red tier. I am pleased to report that after a two-week waiting period in the red tier, our schools are allowed to resume in-person instruction on campus.

It is important to note that at any time during the school year, County Health Officer, Dr. Gail Newel, may require one or all of our Catholic 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 on September 22, 2020, third through fifth grade starting on September 28, 2020 and sixth through eighth grade starting on October 5, 2020. Ninth through twelfth grade will also begin their return to campus after September 22, 2020.** A phased approach to reopening will ensure the proper training and implementation of our health and safety protocols for all staff, families and students. This timeline is subject to change depending on public health conditions. 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 the dedication of our faculty, staff and families during our distance learning program and as we prepare to welcome our students back to the classroom.

Blessings,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Kimberly Cheng".

Kimberly Cheng  
Superintendent