

Dear Parents:

On August 13, 2020, the Chester County Health Department recommended that all schools begin the school year virtually through October 9, 2020. The guidance was based on the anticipation of increased cases due to Labor Day holiday activity at the end of the summer season.

After careful consideration of this recommendation, we have decided that Archdiocesan schools should continue to follow the guidance of the PA Department of Education which was issued on August 10, 2020 as well as the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommendations for the re-opening of schools. The State guidance relies on two standard public health metrics: incidence rate and the percent positivity of diagnostic testing. On a weekly basis, the PA Department of Health will publish the level of community transmission of COVID-19 for every county in the state and the state has recommended instructional models based on the level in each county.

Low - Full in-person model or blended learning model

Moderate - Blended learning model or full remote learning

Substantial - Full remote learning

Archdiocesan schools will be expected to utilize the recommended learning model two school days (48 hours) later. We have allowed for transition time so that schools could prepare and parents could arrange for child care.

The state guidance is fact based on actual cases and provides the necessary safeguards that we have consistently utilized for the operations. If the level of transmission increases to the substantial level, schools will need to switch to full remote learning. We recommend you prepare to be flexible.

Sincerely,

Andrew McLaughlin, Ed.D.
Superintendent for Elementary Schools

Sister Maureen L. McDermott, IHM, Ph.D.
Superintendent for Secondary Schools