



DIOCESE OF STEUBENVILLE

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Diocesan schools will open for face-to-face instruction

STEUBENVILLE — Permanent Deacon Paul D. Ward, director of the Diocese of Steubenville’s Office of Christian Formation and Schools, said the diocese is now poised to plan and prepare for the 2020-21 academic school year.

Ward said, “Many decisions will need to be made by each individual Catholic school, with policies developed in partnership with local health officials and possibly neighboring public school districts.”

All eleven Catholic schools in the Diocese of Steubenville, will open in the fall, in accordance with each school’s 2020-21 academic year school calendar. Catholic schools will be open for “traditional” face-to-face classroom instruction, Monday through Friday. Ward said, “The schools will provide schoolwide remote instruction, only in such cases when state or local authorities have mandated (not simply recommended) that school buildings be closed.” Catholic schools will then make every use of streaming technology and distance learning tools, in order to continue providing instruction and learning support while students remain at home (as was the case last spring).

As long as our buildings are permitted to remain open, diocesan Catholic schools will not offer families a long-term option of traditional classroom instruction vs. remote or distance learning. The only long-term option to be offered families who choose to place their children in our schools will be traditional on-sight classroom instruction. However, in the event that a teacher or student (or group of students) are unable to report to school for on-site instruction/learning because they have tested positive for COVID-19, or are in quarantine (by order of the local health department or a doctor’s recommendation), schools will make every effort to provide temporary accommodations for both teacher and students.

As far as athletics, schools will comply with all guidance from the Ohio High School Athletic Association (OHSAA) regarding school athletic activities, including grade schools that are not OHSAA members.

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