

6/17/2020

Greetings Catholic School Families, staff and supporters!

I wanted to reach out and thank you for your work and extra efforts in continuing to support our Catholic Schools during this difficult time of COVID-19 isolation. We all know that humans are socially oriented and that as a result of this virus, we have all been forced to give up going to school, work and Mass in the manner that we have been accustomed to. These are no doubt the most challenging times we have seen as a society since World War II. We know that many people have been sick and died from this virus and we also know that many people have lost their jobs and are facing difficult times as a result of our current situation of social isolation.

I want to specifically thank our teachers for stepping up and working extra hard to deliver education to our students in a manner that includes group online education (usually through Zoom), individual remote meetings and phone calls, along with individual “drive by” parking lot meetings, where teachers exchange materials and check in with students and their parents....while maintaining social distancing! What is truly amazing is how quickly we have all pivoted to adjust our education delivery model to meet the needs of our students. I also know that our principals have been working hard to accommodate families who are struggling financially and we will continue to work to help keep students enrolled in our schools! As we enter the last few weeks of this school year, we will continue to do our best to meet the needs of our students and to serve our families.

I would also like to thank our parent, grandparent and parishioner volunteers! I would especially like to recognize those folks who serve on our Student Advisory Councils, budget committees and foundations. Finally, I would like to also recognize the efforts of our parish priests in guiding us. You are a major reason our schools operate so successfully!

I have recently been meeting with the Oregon Department of Education, as our Catholic Schools are currently under the same restrictions for COVID 19 as are the public schools in the State of Oregon. At this point in time, it looks as though we will need to develop plans for the 2020-2021 school year, that consider a blended model of education delivery. Our hope is that we can have our students physically attend school, knowing that we will need to modify what that looks like. We will also have to have plans in place for a possible return to remote delivery (home school), in the event that COVID-19 infections spike or grow. The principals and I will be in constant communication as we finish up the remainder of this school year and we will be planning for the delivery of an effective Catholic Education as we move into the 2020-2021 school year. Thank you for trusting us with your children’s education!

Sincerely,

Jim Golden

Superintendent Diocese of Baker Catholic Schools