

6/9/2020

Greetings Catholic School Families, staff and supporters!

As we move into our summer break, 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 the COVID-19 virus. These are no doubt some of 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!

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 am in contact with the Oregon Department of Education (ODE), 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, ODE has not issued guidance for the upcoming school year of 2020-2021. All of our principals are currently in the process of developing plans to have school in person for the upcoming year. Our principals are making plans for daily screening of staff and students, extra daily cleaning and social distancing while at school. We will need to develop plans that consider a remote model of education delivery in case students or staff contract COVID 19 or our local health department and ODE direct us to close a school or schools. The principals and I will be in constant communication over the summer 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