



August 6, 2020

Dear St. Pius X Families and Community,

As a community, we have been collectively working together these past months on behalf of our children. Whether by practicing mask wearing, limiting our routines, keeping our distance, and washing our hands religiously, hoping our efforts would allow our school to re-open for in-person education. Doing our part for the good of all is truly the St. Pius way!

You will find attached, a letter from the Superintendent of Catholic Schools and Archbishop Etienne regarding all Archdiocesan Catholic schools in Western Washington. As you will read, Catholic schools will follow the recommendations provided by Governor Inslee's office and/or local public health authorities. **St. Pius X School is currently in a high-risk county, thus will begin the 2020-21 school year remotely, using our updated and improved Distance Learning Plan 2.0 for our K through 8th grades.** At this time, we are able to continue to plan for in-person classes for our preschool and pre-K students with health protocols and procedures in place. Our first day of school will be Monday, August 31st for all students as planned.

Governor Inslee's press conference yesterday gave more definitive guidance to schools planning for instruction this fall. The [framework](#) released yesterday emphasizes that reopening for in-person K-12 instruction should be based upon specific, county-level data related to the average number of positive COVID-19 cases per 100,000 residents over a 14 day time period, which we will be following. **High risk is considered as 75 new cases per 100,000 residents over a two-week rolling period; Snohomish County is currently at 85.9 per 100,000 residents.**

Our Distance Learning Committee, teachers and staff have all been working on updating and enhancing our spring distance learning plan with feedback from all constituents. Starting this fall, we will be delivering synchronous instruction via our MS Teams platform with structured, regular, and meaningful engagement between teachers and students 5 days a week. We are committed to providing high-quality education and creating relevant learning experiences. Our staff met today and will continue to meet weekly and eventually daily as we approach the start of the school year. We are very excited to take what we learned from last spring—keep what worked, revamp what needed revamping based on student, family, and teacher feedback, and use new tools and techniques—for high-impact learning for all of our students.

And we are also prepared to transition to our in-person hybrid learning model when we have the opportunity to do so safely. We have our learning spaces prepared and our safety plans and protocols identified to begin a transition to in-person learning when that opportunity becomes safe and viable.

I know this is disappointing news to many in our community. Our community greatly values our relationships and being apart is a heavy burden. But as I carry each and every one of you throughout my day, I fully believe, each and every one of you is carrying me and our smart and resourceful staff as well. Together we are stronger, and I thank you for your continued support of each other and our school.