

Office of Catholic Schools

Diocese of San Bernardino



DR. SAMUEL TORRES
Superintendent

**MARIBEL ARGUELLES-
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Associate Superintendent

DR. AUSTIN CONLEY III
Director of Advancement

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Dear Families,

San Bernardino Catholic Schools are rooted in hope. Our philosophy has always been to support parents in their vision and desire for a holistic education. Like never before, we understand that our collaboration with one another and our belief that God strengthens our community on this faith journey is our calling to live out the Gospel values in our time. In 2008, Pope Benedict XVI stated that “Catholic schools are an outstanding apostolate of hope.” In our current timeframe, hope is paramount. With the uncertainty of external factors beyond our control, it is our mission to prepare for the quality education of your children, who God has entrusted to you. School leaders have been asked to address the challenges with faith and vision. Parents and students are called to exercise this hope and faith by exercising the vision before us. Bishop Barnes elaborates on this vision in the following statement, “We are a community of believers in Jesus, the Christ, called to impact Family, Neighborhood and Society with the Gospel so that People’s lives are filled with hope.” The following information provides the protocol for reopening our schools at this time. Thank you for remaining hopeful as we do our very best to discern and implement appropriate protocols and practices.

The health and safety of our students and staff are the top priorities when making the decision to physically reopen school campuses for the 2020 – 2021 academic year. All schools will adhere to the Diocese of San Bernardino Catholic School Reopening Guidelines. These guidelines were developed in accordance with the directives from the Centers of Disease and Prevention (CDC); the California Department of Public Health (CDPH); and, in consultation with both the San Bernardino and Riverside Departments of Public Health.

The Office of Catholic Schools (OCS) and the Emergency Operations Collaborative (EOC) are committed to following the Governor’s phasing protocol; reviewing and referring to the relevant county variance documentation; consulting with county public health office; and regularly reviewing updated guidance from the California Department of Public Health (CDPH). Although the prevention of COVID-19 spread cannot be guaranteed, all reasonable measures will be taken to ensure the safety of our students, teachers and staff. Teachers and staff will be trained in pandemic safety protocols for reopening, in order to ensure a safe and healthy educational environment. School principals will share their site-specific, campus reopening plans with school families and community.

All schools will be on campus five days a week with the following models in place:

1. Elementary – Cohort Model by Classroom
 - a. Students and teacher shall remain with their own class, at all times.
2. Middle School – Cohort Model for Students
 - a. Students shall remain in their own cohort with no student movement between classes.
 - b. As much as possible, students shall remain with their own teacher. When teacher movement is necessary, teacher must do as follows:
 - i. Teacher departing the classroom must clean and sanitize all common areas such as teacher desk, podiums, white boards, Smart boards, and any other teacher-used surfaces.
 - ii. Upon entering the new classroom, the teacher must sanitize face shield (cleaning inside and outside surface) and sanitize hands, before beginning any instruction.
3. High School – Hybrid Model (for 575+ student population)
 - a. High schools with dense populations must subdivide student populations in such a way that 50% of the student population is on campus at any given time. Each subdivided group of students becomes its own cohort and shall remain in that same cohort. Cohorts will be assigned in a rotating fashion.
 - b. Students on campus shall receive on-site instruction and receive distance learning while at home.

We understand that there may be some students that are immune compromised or carry a higher risk for COVID-19 or who live with family members who have those conditions. Families with such conditions will present a doctor's note to the school and the student will remain in Distance Learning starting in the Fall of 2020. Additionally, these students will not be allowed to be on campus before, during or after school hours, or extra-curricular activities to ensure their individual safety and the safety of the cohort. Individual school sites will have Distance Learning plans with asynchronous and/or synchronous instruction to cover the school's curriculum.

All schools will have temperature checks prior to students entering campus. When symptoms are present, the subsequent steps will be followed:

1. If a student presents a fever of 100.4 or above during drop-off, student will not be allowed on campus and must be taken home.
2. If a student presents a fever of 100.4 or above during school hours, schools will follow protocols to ensure student safety. The student will be isolated until such time as the parents/guardians are notified that the student must return home immediately.
 - a. The student must be symptom free without medication for 3 days from the day the student was sent home, before being able to return to school.
 - b. If the student is not symptom free for 3 days, it will be recommended that the student be tested for COVID-19. The student must remain home for an additional 10 days. During this time, all students within the cohort will be monitored.
 - c. If a student is exposed to someone that tested positive for COVID-19, the student will be asked to isolate at home for 14 days prior to returning to school. During this time, all students within the cohort will be monitored.
3. If a student tests positive for COVID-19, the cohort will be asked to isolate at home for 14 days prior to returning to school. In accordance with FERPA and the maintenance of confidentiality, the name of the student will not be revealed. Schools will follow their communication protocol. OCS, EOC, and appropriate health agencies will be notified of the positive test result.

The safety of all is dependent on all of us being diligent in following government guidelines outside of our school campuses. It is going to take our continuous collaborative efforts to slow down the spread of COVID-19. Present guidelines include socializing only with members of your household, only going out for essentials or essential services, practice social distancing, wash your hands, and wear a face covering when in public. All of us need to do our part.

We are with you on this journey.



Dr. Samuel Torres
Superintendent



Maribel Arguelles-Ortiz
Associate Superintendent



Dr. Austin Conley III
Director of Advancement