

# Office of Catholic Schools

## Diocese of San Bernardino



**DR. SAMUEL TORRES**  
Superintendent

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Associate Superintendent

**DR. AUSTIN CONLEY III**  
Director of Advancement

September 16, 2020

Greetings to all families as we begin the new 2020 – 2021 school year. We pray you are safe and well. Our journey has been altered due to the COVID-19 pandemic, creating an opportunity for us to be ever more united in prayer and service for our children in the mission of Catholic education in our Diocese. As you know, both public and parochial schools in our two counties are currently prohibited by the State of California from opening for in-person instruction, due to the continued rising number of COVID-19 cases. At this time of widespread rise and risk, the Diocese will not be submitting waivers to the state of California for reopening.

The decision-making process for our Catholic schools, and for the entire Diocese has not changed. We continue to seek and evaluate the guidelines and relevant data, from the Governor's Office, the California Department of Public Health, the Departments of Public Health of Riverside and San Bernardino, and the Diocesan Leadership team. With that in mind, school gatherings in the usual manner on campus simply pose too great a threat to the health and safety of our school communities – including your family homes. In this new paradigm of Catholic education, we want the best and safest experience for your children. Upon opening our educational program through Diocesan schools, we have established COSL (Catholic Online Synchronous Learning). Each school will reflect its culture, traditions, and unique programming. Every principal observes daily the real time instruction and effectiveness of technology use. Principals are looking for experiences that amplify and express student faith, learning, and preparation for active leadership in the community.

Please join this team of teachers, staff, principals, and school community constituents who are faithfully accepting the task at hand, to pray God's will be done in daily growing the church of today and tomorrow. Together we believe and are united with you in accepting this gift, your children, from God's hands to our classrooms. We will reopen when it is safe to do so. We thank you for your commitment and we ask for your patience and understanding as we continue to journey together in this academic year.

*Dr. Samuel Torres*

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Superintendent

*Arguelles*

Maribel Arguelles-Ortiz  
Associate Superintendent

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