



July 23, 2020

Dear St. Joseph and St. Mary's Community:

Thank you for your cooperation as we continue to navigate through COVID-19 and the impact to our community. The health, safety, and well-being of our students, families, and staff is our top priority.

Based on feedback from surveys from parents and staff, and recommendations from Governor Burgum and Kirsten Baesler, at this time we will plan to open our school doors to in-person instruction this fall. This past Monday, staff went through our Return to School Plan that includes our Educational Plan, Health Guidance, and School Procedures. This is a document that will be ever changing as we respond to developments within our community.

We are working diligently to finalize our plan for fall. The next steps in the process will be to further refine the plan based on continued guidance from the North Dakota Department of Health, recommendations from the diocese and Father Wilhelm, and input from Devils Lake Public Schools. I will present the plan to the Board of Education on August 3. My goal is to then issue the plan to families and staff on August 4, knowing that the plan is still fluid and has the ability to change before the start of school, on **September 2**.

Thank you for your patience and understanding during this very difficult time in our world. We are working to make the best decisions possible for our students, with the health and safety of students and staff at the forefront.

God Bless,

Michelle Clouse

**PRAYER TO MARY DURING THE
CORONAVIRUS PANADEMIC**

O Mary, you shine continuously along our journey as a sign of salvation and hope.


We entrust ourselves to you, Health of the Sick, who at the Cross were near to the pain of Jesus, keeping your faith firm.

You, Salvation of the Roman people, know what we need, and we trust that you will provide for those needs so that, as at Cana of Galilee, joy and celebration may return after this moment of trial.

Help us, Mother of Divine Love, to conform ourselves to the will of the Father and to do what Jesus tells us, He who took our sufferings upon Himself, and took up our sorrows to bring us, through the Cross, to the joy of the Resurrection. Amen.

We seek refuge under your protection, O Holy Mother of God. Do not despise our pleas – we who are put to the test – and deliver us from every danger; O glorious and blessed Virgin.

Pope Francis



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