



THE DIOCESE OF COLUMBUS

July 10, 2020

Dear Catholic School Families of the Diocese of Columbus,

Following the release of the State of Ohio's school re-opening guidance last week, the Diocese of Columbus is ready to make public its guidance to schools on re-opening this Fall. Our goal has been to return to normal operations to the fullest extent permitted by research-based health and safety guidelines.

The plan was written by a task force made up of Diocesan staff, principals, teachers, and school nurses (many of the members are also parents in our schools) and made use of the guidance available from the CDC, the American Academy of Pediatrics, the State of Ohio, and our Diocese's experience with re-opening the parishes. The plan includes the best practices for moving forward this Fall. Our plan is broad – each individual school will determine its own specific procedures for local re-opening with their own local task forces. With 53 schools across 15 counties, a single, centralized plan is not possible. Local conditions, including enrollment, building size, and local health department regulations will determine the final version of each school's plan.

As with the parish re-opening guidance, there are some research-based guidelines that will be common to schools. These include social distancing of 6 feet, the use of face coverings, enhanced cleaning and sanitation procedures, restrictive visitor policies, and new illness protocols. As the Covid-19 situation and guidance continues to change, our plans will also continue to change.

Our Catholic schools are dedicated to providing an outstanding education in our faith. Thank you for your continued support for our schools and commitment to Catholic education. Despite these uncertain times, our mission remains the same – we are dedicated to providing an outstanding education and to forming disciples of Christ. We are communities anchored in prayer that will persevere through the upcoming challenges.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Adam J. Dufault
Episcopal Moderator for Education
Superintendent of Catholic Schools