



ARCHDIOCESE OF MOBILE

OFFICE OF CATHOLIC SCHOOLS

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November 18, 2020

Dear Catholic School Parents and Guardians,

Thanksgiving Blessings I send to each of you. COVID-19 has certainly stayed with us much longer than we ever dreamed. As we have all seen in the news, maintaining Thanksgiving traditions in a pandemic year will be challenging. What will not change for any of us however, is our reflection time for all the blessings God has bestowed on us.

Please know I consider you one of my many blessings. I am humbled that you entrust your most precious gifts, your children, to our schools. During this first semester you, working with our principals and teachers, have met the protocols established by health officials and school administrators. This allowed students to safely return for in-school classroom instruction. Your priorities obviously match those of our schools – to allow children a quality Catholic education in a safe environment.

I ask that during the upcoming Thanksgiving break you continue to be mindful of this priority. The activities that your families participate in over these days will impact the educational process of your children, as well as others within your school community. Of course, none of us wants to be sick or quarantining through the Christmas season.

Planning ahead for Christmas holidays brings me to a change we are making after our regular Christmas holidays. Knowing how the holidays will bring other people into your lives, we are making one change for our schools in the New Year. The official day for our schools to return to their classrooms is Monday, January 4, 2021. However, a decision has been made to have this first week of school (January 4-8) be virtual learning.

It is our hope and prayer that this week of virtual classes will prevent an outbreak of COVID-19 and limit the need for quarantines within your school. In the coming weeks, Principals and teachers at each school will notify you and your children about the individual school plans and expectations for this week.

May you have a very wonderful and blessed Thanksgiving holidays. Thank you for being our partners in Catholic Education.

Gwendolyn Byrd
Executive Director for Catholic Education/Superintendent
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