



MOUNT CARMEL SCHOOL

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Dear Mount Carmel School Family,

May the Peace of Christ be with you all as we all continue to deal with the coronavirus pandemic. Indeed, during turbulent times like these, we all need peace in our lives and in our hearts.

I write to you about a very important announcement regarding the 2020-2021 school year. Recently, we learned that two items we invested in that are critical for student safety—ultraviolet lighting fixtures for air conditioners and plexiglass cubicles for student desks—will be delayed due to various issues with manufacturing, shipping, and global demand. These items have been ordered and paid for, but they will not arrive until later in August.

Because we are prioritizing the safety of our students and employees above all else during this pandemic, we have decided to delay the start of the school year as follows:

August 17: Launch of Online Remote Learning

On Monday, August 17, we will start the school year with online remote learning for all grades. Students in Kindergarten through 6th grade will have daily synchronous learning, while students in 7th through 12th grade will alternate between synchronous learning twice a week and asynchronous the rest of the week. We need time between now and August 17 to reconfigure our schedule, curriculum, and technology to prepare for this online remote learning. More details about how to access online remote learning will be provided to students and their families next week.

August 31: Launch of Face-to-Face Learning

Anticipating that classrooms will be safe and ready by the end of August, we are targeting the launch of face-to-face learning for Monday, August 31. We will begin offering face-to-face learning with the lower grades and work our way up to high school as the ultraviolet units and plexiglass cubicles arrive.

School Year NOT Extended

While we are delaying the start of the school year, barring any unforeseen circumstances, we still plan to end the school year as scheduled on May 26, 2021. Details about calendar adjustments are forthcoming.

In the meantime, please take a moment to review the following resources that will help keep our school and our community safe:

- Mount Carmel School Policies and Procedures for COVID-19 Prevention and Control (attached)
- [How to Protect Yourself & Others](#) (from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention)
- [Latest Information on Coronavirus Disease 2019 \(COVID-19\)](#) (from the CNMI Office of the Governor)
- [Commonwealth Healthcare Corporation COVID-19 Guidebook](#)

We thank you for your patience and understanding. As we have shared before, because this is a dynamic situation that changes on a daily basis, the future is uncertain and many questions still remain. The school's Leadership Team, guided by Bishop Ryan P. Jimenez and the school's Board of Directors, are making decisions based on the best and most accurate information available at any given time. Please be assured that no matter what we do, we will provide ample notification and information to all students, parents, teachers, and families via email, our website, all our social media outlets, and local media. In other words, you will definitely hear from us and know what to do.

These are challenging times, but we have survived devastating typhoons, economic recessions, and many other tragedies. With FAITH in our Lord, HOPE for a better tomorrow, and LOVE for each other, we will get through this together. We are KNIGHT STRONG. We are MARIANAS STRONG.

Our Lady of Mount Carmel...

Galvin Deleon Guerrero, EdD
President
Mount Carmel School, Inc.