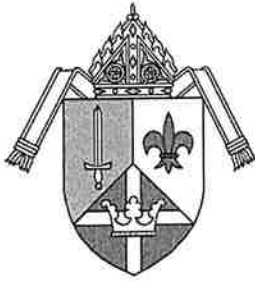


CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF LEXINGTON
OFFICE OF CATHOLIC SCHOOLS



August 5, 2021

Dear Catholic Schools Families and Staff

We are committed to beginning the 2021-2022 school year on-time and with the best opportunity for uninterrupted, in-person learning for our students, families and staff. We share the concerns of State of Kentucky officials, health care professionals and parents concerning the rising transmission rates of this virus and its variants in our Diocese. The Delta variant appears to be more contagious and is infecting younger populations. After consulting with health professionals and our school leadership, Bishop John Stowe has decided that all students and staff, whether they are vaccinated or not, are to be masked indoors from the start of school until Labor Day.

After Labor Day, if conditions have improved, we want all schools to be empowered to evaluate the conditions in their individual communities and determine the best course of action regarding masking protocols. This will allow the maximum flexibility for each school community based on local conditions.

We all wish that the pandemic were behind us, but conditions continue to change. The situation will be monitored closely and changes to policy may be made accordingly. We continue to pray for the health and safety of everyone involved in our Catholic schools, parishes, diocese and beyond.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Thomas O. Brown".

Thomas O. Brown
Superintendent of Schools
Catholic Diocese of Lexington