



*Living Faithfully, Loving Fully,
Learning Joyfully, Serving Humbly*

Dear Parents,

I pray you and your family are safe and healthy as we continue to plan for the reopening of schools this fall. Catholic schools in the Archdiocese strive to nurture and develop students as whole persons, addressing the physical, intellectual, spiritual, social and psychological well-being of each student. It is difficult to achieve these goals if the students are not physically in school; therefore, re-opening St. Michael the Archangel Catholic School is a top priority.

As you may know, on Monday July, 20th, Governor Kelly signed two Executive Orders (20-58 and 20-59) regarding schools in Kansas. The Kansas State Board of Education voted Wednesday morning not to support Executive Order 20-58 which would have delayed the start of the 2020-21 school year. While the Governor's Executive Order was not passed by the Kansas State Board of Education, local county Health Departments may determine the need to adopt their own order regarding the start date for schools in their counties. Without individual orders from local health departments, schools have the autonomy to determine their own start date.

Start date at St. Michael the Archangel Catholic School for all students in K-8 is August 31, 2020. This date corresponds with the other Johnson County Catholic Schools and allows the appropriate amount of time to prepare our teachers for the new Virtual Learning Option. The additional time also ensures that our school building is equipped and ready for a successful and safe school year. We are excited to start the school year as a community of faith and learning.

[Executive Order 20-59](#) mandates face coverings for all students, faculty, staff, vendors, and other visitors to K-12 school buildings or facilities. Currently, exceptions for wearing face masks include the following:

1. Eating.
2. Activities that cannot be safely conducted with a mask or other face covering.
3. Children who are not students and are 5 years of age or under.
4. Persons with a medical condition, mental health condition, or disability that prevents wearing a face covering.
5. Persons who are deaf or hard of hearing or communicating with a person who is deaf or hard of hearing, where the ability to see the mouth is essential for communication.
6. Persons for whom wearing a face covering would create a risk to the person related to their work.

The Executive Order mandates six feet social distancing, except for in-person instruction in classrooms when masks or other face coverings are worn. The order also requires hand sanitizer in all classrooms with the expectation that all students and faculty sanitize their hands no less than once every hour. Finally, all individuals entering the school must have their temperatures checked before entering the building. We are working on ways to follow these guidelines and providing a practical and effective way of teaching our students.

We are very excited to roll out our Virtual Learning Option. It is going to be interactive, rigorous, include special classes, and our beautiful Catholic faith will continue to be central to what we do. This virtual learning will mirror most of our in person class schedules. The Virtual Learning Option will also allow us to be flexible with any scenario that confronts us as we progress during these trying times. We will share these details of both in person and virtual learning in the first part of August after our plans are solidified. At that time, parents will be able to select between the in-person or Virtual Learning Option.

We are anxious to welcome our students back to St. Michael the Archangel Catholic School this fall!

God Bless You!

Lorenzo Rizzi, Ed.D

Principal, St. Michael the Archangel Catholic School



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