



**OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT
DEPARTMENT OF CATHOLIC SCHOOLS**

May 20, 2020

VIA ELECTRONIC DELIVERY

Dear Catholic School Families, Faculty, and Friends,

I hope this letter finds your family well and safe. I'm writing to follow up on our dialogue about how we may continue to serve our students with an eye on welcoming them back this fall.

Acting in a proactive manner, the Department of Catholic Schools recently assembled a taskforce to develop plans for the start of the 2020-2021 academic year. Members of the taskforce include physicians, government officials, educators, school pastors, and parents. The goal of the task force is to establish several options for a safe return to school for the fall, guided by the best understanding of the evidence for what will protect and best serve all of our students and educators.

Please know that the health, safety, and well-being of all educators and students is of paramount importance. Options for our return to school will include appropriate social distancing and other protective measures for in-person instruction, as well as continued distance learning alternatives, if necessary. Our goal at this juncture is to be prepared to embark on another enriching academic year with our students this fall while remaining responsive to the public health situation as it stands at that time. To that end, all options drafted by the taskforce will be developed in conjunction with guidance from the State of Michigan and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

We will communicate these plans to all stakeholders at the earliest possible opportunity. Considering the positive impact that mitigation efforts have had on our statewide and metropolitan area over the last two months, we are hopeful that these trends will continue so we may welcome students back to our schools this fall. However our year begins, we can be rest assured that our communities will come together – as they did this spring – to ensure our students have an excellent Catholic education.

Sincerely,

Kevin D. Kijewski, J.D.
Superintendent of Catholic Schools

Cc: The Most Reverend Allen Vigneron, Ph.D.
The Very Reverend Jeffrey Day, V.G.
The Honorable Gretchen Whitmer

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