



**Office for Schools**

July 1, 2020

Dear Catholic School Families,

I think we can all agree that summer came just in time, and I pray this time finds you and your families blessed.

As promised, I am writing to provide you with an update of our progress in the re-opening of Catholic schools in the fall for the 2020-2021 school year.

Our plan right now is to have as many students on campus with their teachers as the public health offices will allow. We share your concern and desire that kids need to be in school, and they need to be with each other. Community is the heart of a Catholic school.

That said, we must be both cautious and compliant in our re-opening plan. The enrollment and capacity at each school is different; therefore, a cookie-cutter approach for every school won't work. Based on campus capacity, many of our schools may have every student back on campus every day. This would be optimal. Some schools may be able to spread across the campus and use alternative spaces, as well as the outdoors, to accommodate their existing student body. Others may have to consider a split-day schedule, whereby half the students attend in the morning and half the students attend in the afternoon. Still other schools may have to consider having students attend on alternate days. Extension programs will also have to adjust to compensate for the changes in class schedules.

Because of the strain this places on working families, we will work to mitigate this to the best of our ability with respect to the current Public Health Order. We are aware and sensitive to the fact that many of you are waiting to receive this information before you make a commitment for the 2020-2021 school year. With general diocesan guidance informed by county, state and federal authorities, each school in the diocese will finalize its specific plan and communicate this to you.

With such diversity in our Catholic schools spanning the entire southern tip of the state, what are the promises that every school can stand behind?

- All Schools in the Diocese of San Diego will continue to cultivate a community where each student develops a relationship with the person of Jesus Christ.
- All Schools in the Diocese of San Diego will be safe and sanitized according to local health guidelines for the protection of families and employees.
- All Schools in the Diocese of San Diego will provide families a distance learning option as needed due to any unforeseen changes in public health conditions.
- All Schools in the Diocese of San Diego will continue to provide high quality education that aims to meet the needs of each student in all learning contexts.

This is our goal. Because we are Church, I believe strongly that our unity in Christ will give us the wisdom and strength we need to continue working together for the good of our Catholic school children. Each member of our Office for Schools team have our own children enrolled in our Catholic schools. We are living this reality with you, and as much as we all want to get back to normal, it is most important at this time that we get it right.

May God's summer sun continue to warm you and bless your family.

In Mission,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'John Galvan', with a large, sweeping flourish extending to the right.

John Galvan  
Director, Office for Schools

cc: School Pastor, Principal, Bookkeeper