



OFFICE FOR CATHOLIC SCHOOLS
DIOCESE OF GREENSBURG

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Dear Parents and Guardians,

As the school year ends, we reflect on what was the most unusual year in memory while making plans for the upcoming academic year. We are proud of what our schools were able to provide your children academically and spiritually through distance learning. But, our plans are to begin the school year with students in our buildings. Be assured that plans and strategies are being developed for a safe return to our schools in August so we can continue to offer our vibrant, Catholic education to your children in person. Task forces continue meeting to develop a physical safety plan for students and families as we work toward the return to our school buildings. All plans will reflect the guidance and requirements of the Pennsylvania Department of Education, the Pennsylvania Department of Health and the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (the CDC).

However, we also envision scenarios where a student or a family member is exposed to the virus or becomes ill and the student is required to stay at home for an extended period of time. The plans we develop will include two paths so Catholic schools in the Diocese of Greensburg will be positioned to provide distance learning for any students who have to be away from the school building because of their own or a family member's health circumstances.

We are also reviewing our technology needs with special attention to equitable learning opportunities for all students. The current learning management system, Schoology, is being expanded to encompass both elementary and secondary schools so parents and guardians will be able to reference a central location for their students' instructional needs.

The Diocese of Greensburg began virtual instruction for students immediately following the closure of schools in March. We have all learned a great deal since then and have emerged from this experience even stronger in our instructional capabilities. Meeting the academic and spiritual needs of students and families is always the mission of Catholic education. The safety and health of students is always a top priority. A Catholic education is uniquely equipped to address the faith needs of students, offering them hope for the future as Disciples of Christ. Their ability to withstand the turbulence of current times rests in their belief in God's plan for their future.

Thank you for believing in Catholic education. We sincerely appreciate your trust while we work tirelessly to provide your children with a rigorous education and blessed assurance for the future. I will keep you informed as plans for next year are finalized.

God bless you and your families,

Maureen Marsteller, Ph.D.
Superintendent of Catholic Schools, Diocese of Greensburg