



DIOCESE OF CAMDEN
Office of Catholic Schools

July 16, 2020

Dear Catholic School Parents,

Catholic schools in the Diocese of Camden have been working hard to prepare to welcome students safely back to their classrooms for the 2020-2021 school year. Our plan is for each school to open so that all students have the opportunity to attend school in person safely every day. We will also have a remote learning option for families who are not yet ready to send their children to school for in-person learning.

During the month since school ended, school principals and the Office of Catholic Schools have fielded many questions about plans for the upcoming school year. **We have prepared answers to the most pressing questions, which are posted on the website of the Catholic Star Herald and accessible at: <https://catholicstarherald.org/?p=39096>.**

The questions that are addressed include:

- What safety measures will schools take to protect students, teachers, administrators, and staff?
- Will my child have to wear a mask?
- Will the academic program be different this year?
- Will there be sports programs this Fall?

The answers to all of the questions come from the more detailed health and safety guidelines and academic framework shared with all schools by the Office of Catholic Schools. These were developed in consultation with elementary and high school principals, the diocesan Strategic Action Team, and public health officials, and using parent feedback and guidelines established by the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) and the NJ Department of Education. Each school is preparing a school-specific plan that applies the guidelines to its unique circumstances. The Office of Catholic Schools will continue to monitor public health information and recommendations to remain flexible to advise schools to adjust plans if necessary.

Thank you for choosing Catholic school and for your continuing support of your school's principal and teachers. Their energy, hard work, and love of their students are the fuel driving preparations for next school year. I appreciate your partnership with them as we all work together to prepare for the coming school year.

Sincerely in Christ,

Dr. William A. Watson
Superintendent of Schools