



Diocese of Charlotte Office of Catholic Schools

1123 South Church Street Charlotte, NC 28203

July 31, 2020

Dear Families and Friends of Our Diocese of Charlotte Schools,

We are pleased to share that today we successfully wrapped up seven weeks of summer camp here in Charlotte with no cases of COVID-19 among staff or students: We had 480 children across three schools playing, praying and learning together from 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. in both indoor and outdoor environments. The positive feedback from parents and staff regarding this successful summer program is a testament to the safety protocols put in place by our Summer Camp Director, Ellen Buening, and her team of 21 staff. Thank you to all who participated and assisted.

The overwhelming success of our summer program affirms our commitment to returning to in-person instruction in our schools this fall with appropriate safety protocols based on the latest [AAP](#), [CDC](#), and [state](#) guidance. Since announcing a return to school under Model A of our learning continuum, our principals have been meeting regularly and sharing feedback from faculty and staff. The message we hear from them is that while they are committed to returning to school, they'd like more time to prepare and practice safety, cleaning and sanitation protocols, enhance the cohesiveness of their departments after the long absence, and prepare lessons and plans to support both in-person and remote students. We are also procuring and installing additional equipment and items to bolster the safety measures laid out in our plans, and our vendors would appreciate additional time to procure and install those items.

So, we're listening. As a result of this feedback, our schools are delaying their opening dates by one or two weeks. Teachers will return on their school's originally announced start date, and students will start at the following times: August 31 for Mecklenburg and Piedmont Area Catholic Schools, Sacred Heart in Salisbury, and St. Michael in Gastonia. September 8 for Immaculata in Hendersonville and Asheville Catholic. The close of the school year will occur approximately one week later than previously planned.

On a personal note, please let me say we are extremely grateful for the high quality of feedback shared by families, teachers, staff and other stakeholders. It has enhanced the discussion and enriched our efforts to offer the safest possible return to campus while also keeping our commitment to create as normal a learning experience for our students as possible.

We prioritize the safety and well-being of your children, as well as our faculty and staff, and we appreciate your understanding of this schedule change. Please pray for our school communities as we continue to prepare for the upcoming school year, and we look forward to seeing you very soon.

In Christ,

Dr. Gregory P. Monroe
Superintendent of Catholic Schools