



August 13, 2020

Dear Families in our Diocese of Charlotte Catholic Schools,

In this letter, we share some vital updates and resources to help you and your family prepare for a safe return to campus.

The Catholic School Office administration, school leaders and the task team have been monitoring guidance from the U.S. Centers for Disease Control, American Academy of Pediatrics and the N.C. Department of Health and Human Services as we continue to evaluate our policies and guidelines for the coming year to ensure we provide the safest, highest quality Catholic educational experience possible. NCDHHS considers schools “low or medium risk” environments for the spread of COVID-19 based on the data, but we are enacting comprehensive, multi-layered safety measures to minimize risk and safeguard our students, teachers and staff.

Attached is important information we recommend you read carefully:

- an educational document from the CSO that includes a COVID-19 screening tool, symptomatic response measures and quarantine requirements
- your school’s parent handouts with helpful tips and links on handwashing, emotional support at home, and wearing a face covering properly

In addition: While not required to follow the state’s guidance for public schools, we do seek to adhere when appropriate to the governor’s safety mandates while preserving the integrity of our goal to create as normal and safe of a learning environment as possible. In light of the updated August 3rd guidance regarding face coverings, we are adding the following requirement:

- Students in grades K-12 at all 19 schools will be required to wear face coverings throughout the school day in common areas and hallways whenever social distancing is not possible. (Many students will remain in classroom “cohorts” where face coverings will not be required, but using face coverings in areas where larger groups mix will help to reduce risk.)

As a reminder, face coverings must also be worn by:

- Students in grades 6-12 wherever social distancing is not possible
- All K-12 students riding a bus
- All K-12 students upon arrival to campus for health screenings
- All teachers and staff wherever social distancing is not possible

This requirement prioritizes the use of face coverings as the CDC and AAP recommend: based on what is developmentally appropriate, practical and feasible across our grades and school environments because “every child and every school is unique.”

If you have any questions about how these requirements apply at your school, please contact your school’s administration.

We remain committed to our mission as Catholic schools in providing a holistic educational experience focusing on growth of body, mind and soul, and the ultimate salvation of each child. We are grateful for your collaboration in providing a faith-filled environment conducive to learning, and we look forward with you to a successful year of academic, social and spiritual growth for your child.

In Christ,
Diocese of Charlotte Task Team