

June 16, 2020

Dear Parents,

I hope you are all doing well and that your children are enjoying the summer break. The spring has been tiring and busy, and you have worked hard! Make sure you get the rest and fun you need to rejuvenate!

We are excited about the start to the school year, and are looking forward to seeing our students, faculty, and staff back in our building. We are working hard to prepare for the reopening of our school. Our committees have been very helpful and have provided valuable input. I can't thank the parents, faculty, and staff enough for working diligently to provide an environment where our students can continue to learn and feel safe.

All of our diocesan schools plan to start school on the same day and to provide instruction five days a week in our buildings. August 12 will be our first day of school, and we are making all the necessary preparations to begin the school year with on-campus instruction. I meet often with the other diocesan school principals, and we're all working to follow the directives we have received from the superintendent, the Kentucky Department of Education, and the Division of Child Care. We have reviewed guidelines from the CDC and plans of other school systems across our nation. We are working to comply with the guidelines and directives as they are given to us.

Our School Operations Committee is working on screening procedures at drop-off and dismissal; schedules for cohorting students to limit exposure; plans for social distancing throughout the building; parent education and communication plans; and enhancement of sanitization measures. With regards to this last point, we are hiring an additional custodian to work during the school day, and will continue to have three individuals clean and sanitize in the evenings.

Our Teaching and Learning Committee is ensuring a strong working foundation is in place. They are focused on instruction and assessment, platforms and technology, student support, and professional development. After identifying areas of strength and growth, more specific plans are being developed with a focus on synchronous and asynchronous learning. Google Classroom and social-emotional learning have also been part of its focus.

And the Faith Formation and Community Committee has reviewed ideas, strategies, and plans for making the 2020-21 school year faith-filled, spirit-filled, and service-filled, no matter where or how schooling is taking place.

As plans progress, we will continue to keep you updated. After our committees establish a final operations plan, Fr. Paul and our School Council will review it and give feedback. Then, we will communicate it to our entire school community.

In addition to all that, all the HVAC work throughout the school has been completed. Our sewage system repairs are starting soon; some bathroom plumbing has been updated, and the bathrooms are being repainted. As well, part of our drainage system is being repaired.

We are also excited to announce that we are beginning the first phase of the school's next capital campaign project. The school renovation plans not only include updating the front entrance and adding preschool classrooms, but also the addition of security updates to the school. The installation of security glass, to provide better security for the perimeter of the school, is the first step in that process. Thank you for your contribution to these important updates.

We thank you, also, for your support and dedication for making this upcoming school year not just one of challenges, but a year that will reveal opportunities to be even more successful for our students.

Many blessings to you and your family,  
Paula Smith, Ed.S.