



# Archdiocese of Newark

*Office of Catholic Schools*



July 23, 2020

Dear Parent/Guardian,

Earlier this summer, Governor Murphy announced that public schools in New Jersey “will open in some capacity for in-person instruction and operations in the Fall.” Likewise, Catholic schools in the Archdiocese of Newark are planning for the start of the 2020-2021 school year with the understanding that in-person learning can be offered to the extent possible with social distancing and health and safety requirements in place. The return to in-school learning is dependent on continued progress against the spread of COVID-19 and will follow guidance from the state and the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) regarding the re-opening of schools.

We ask for your continued patience as school planning teams work out the details of what school will look like in September. The return to in-school learning requires a great deal of planning to ensure the health and safety of students and staff. The conditions laid out in the NJ Department of Education’s *Restart & Recovery Plan: The Road Back* will necessitate changes to daily school procedures, space configuration and delivery of instruction, and will require preparation on various levels. Social distancing measures, room capacity, and staffing considerations will determine how many students can safely be present in the school building and whether a school needs to amend schedules to alternate students between in-school and remote learning. In addition, each school’s leadership will have to consider various alternatives for offering remote access to classroom lessons or providing some form of remote learning for those students who will not be returning to in-school learning due to health and safety concerns. Each school will determine the feasibility of the required modifications in terms of building layout, teaching space, technology infrastructure, staffing, and financial constraints. These considerations will lead to the development of each school’s re-opening plan. School leaders will communicate re-opening plans to parents no later than August 10th.

We recognize that these past months have been challenging and filled with anxiety and uncertainty on so many levels. We assure you that planning for the 2020-2021 school year is being undertaken with a great deal of thought and prayer to ensure the health and safety of all in our school communities. We pray for the grace and wisdom needed as we travel the road ahead.

Sincerely,

Rev. Msgr. Thomas J. McDade, Ed.D  
Vicar for Education/Interim Superintendent of Schools

Ms. Barbara Dolan  
Associate Superintendent of Schools

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