



MOST REVEREND
MICHAEL R. COTE, D.D.

Diocese of Norwich
Office of the Bishop
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July 10, 2020

Dear Pastors, Principals, Faculty, Parents and Guardians,

We hope that this letter finds you and your families well, enjoying your summer. We are writing to you to make you aware of our intention to open our schools in the Diocese of Norwich for the 2020/2021 school year as well as to explain the rationale behind this decision. This decision has been made considering the most recent information and guidance provided to us by the Connecticut State Department of Education. We likewise wish to assure you that each of our schools will be taking every reasonable precaution possible to ensure the safety of all students, faculty and staff.

Due to their smaller populations in comparison to most public school systems, our Catholic schools are uniquely able to implement the recommendations of the Department of Education and the Centers for Disease Control, including but not limited to: social distancing in classrooms, the wearing of facemasks, requiring frequent hand washing, regular sanitization of commonly used surfaces, nightly sanitization of all rooms as well as other general health precautions, including provision for a room designated for use by students who may become sick during the school day. Our Principals and Heads of School will ensure strict compliance to the guidance and mandates provided by Federal, State and Diocesan agencies who will continue to closely monitor and communicate the latest developments associated with the virus.

During this time, it is critically important that any student, faculty or staff member who feels sick or experiences any possible symptoms of illness, they must stay home and contact their healthcare provider for medical attention and/or clearance before returning to school.

Since the beginning of this pandemic, we have witnessed the unwavering dedication of our faculty and staff members as well as experienced the understanding and compassionate support from the families in our communities. We are truly appreciative of their steadfast commitment to each of our schools and their respective missions. We therefore remain confident that as a Diocesan school community, we will continue providing the necessary support to one another which will help us to meet the particular challenges of this time. Please know that you and your families remain in our thoughts and prayers. May God bless and keep you safe and healthy.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Bishop of Norwich

Interim Superintendent

C: Ms. Alissa DeJonge
Mr. David Eustis
Mr. Donald Macrino
Mother Mary David Riquier, SCMC