



July 27th, 2020

Dear Parents,

As we have previously stated and will continue to state, we want our students back in school with us in a faith based learning environment. While we cannot promise a COVID-free environment, we want you to know we continue to work together to provide a safe, healthy, loving educational learning experience for our children.

As a team of diocesan administration we have shared questions, concerns, and ideas with one another to create our schools Re-Opening Plans. The building leadership teams have made extraordinary infrastructure innovations and protocol alterations that include: pre-arrival and departure, social-distancing, isolation, PPE, Plexiglas shields, staggered lunches and recess to avoid crowding, limiting outsiders in the buildings, staff face shields, along with student face masks and cleaning protocols. We also continue to partner with the diocesan medical advisory team as well state and local health officials.

If at any time we are required to alter our learning continuum we are prepared for another seamless transition to a hybrid or distance model of learning. You will be notified immediately should this transition need to be put in place. We will be leveraging best practices from our previous experience as well as soliciting continued feedback from students, staff, and families.

We will do our absolute best to keep the students, faculty and staff as safe as possible in "the new normal." We have put as many safeguards in place that we can, and a series of overlapping protocols can make us safer. To make traditional schooling possible, each of us will have a responsibility to follow best practices. When students are not feeling well, please keep them home to prevent the spread of illness.

We all want to be done with COVID but unfortunately COVID is not done with us. We cannot stress enough that the only way to keep our schools open is through a shared responsibility in the community. We greatly appreciate the partnership we have with you, and continue to work together in our efforts to monitor the health and safety of our students and staff. This can happen when we work through this new normal as a unified team.

We will get through the 2020-21 school yeartogether!

God's continued blessings,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Donna Bishop".

Donna Bishop
Superintendent of Schools
Diocese of Des Moines