



ARCHDIOCESE OF WASHINGTON

Archdiocesan Pastoral Center: 5001 Eastern Avenue, Hyattsville, MD 20782-3447
Mailing Address: Post Office Box 29260, Washington, DC 20017-0260
301-853-4500 TDD 301-853-5300

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Dear Parents and Guardians,

The Archdiocese of Washington and each of our schools are winding down the current school year and actively planning for school year 2020-2021. Each step of the way, the focus and primary concern has been the wellbeing of our students. We understand the importance of being prepared to safely reopen and have heard from many of you asking if school campuses will be open next fall. As I mentioned in my last letter, my office has formed the Reopening of Schools Task Force, charged with working toward a goal of planning for the opening of campuses in the fall.

The task force will consider many factors when developing the plan to ensure the continuation of the faith formation and academic excellence of our schools in a safe and healthy environment. First and foremost, the task force must take into consideration the guidelines from the national, state and various counties which are included in the Archdiocese of Washington. We also recognize that schools in the archdiocese have different needs; therefore, the task force will provide support to schools to implement the guidelines based upon their unique circumstances. Our intention is to keep parents and guardians informed. We will provide as much information as possible as soon as it is available.

As of today, the guidance and/or protocols the state and county districts will provide or mandate regarding returning to school in the fall are unknown. It is our hope that by the end of July, we will have established protocols for opening campuses and will communicate them to school leadership and parents. The Catholic Schools Office will continue to keep you informed during this fluid situation as it impacts our area. Please continue to pray for the health and safety of all of our school communities.

This Sunday, we celebrate the great feast of Pentecost, the birthday of the church, when the Holy Spirit was given to us to be our guide and advocate. As the task force continues their work, we pray for the gifts of wisdom and prudence from the Holy Spirit, that we might implement reopening procedures that will keep the health and safety of all of our students, faculty and staff in mind.

Again, thank you for your patience as we navigate this fluid situation and we will keep you informed as decisions and plans are finalized. Come, Holy Spirit!

God Bless,

William H. Ryan, III
Secretary for Catholic Schools