



**CATHOLIC
SCHOOLS**
DIOCESE of RICHMOND

WHAT TO EXPECT AS WE LOOK AHEAD TO THE 2020-2021 SCHOOL YEAR

The Catholic Schools of the Diocese of Richmond embarked on a plan of remote learning in March 2020 as a result of school closures due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The Office of Catholic Schools is preparing for the 2020-2021 school year. We are discussing how to reopen schools safely and preparing for the possibility of intermittent closures during the next school year.

As we start to move ahead and prepare to enter Phase 1 of the Governors Reopening Plan, it is natural to ask what this means for our schools.

Currently our schools are closed to students and they will remain that way for the remainder of the 2019-2020 academic year. This will not change under Phase 1. We are fully prepared to end this school year through remote learning which began when Governor Northam announced school buildings being closed to students on March 13, 2020.

We are hopeful that we will return to our classrooms in August. Since there has not been an official announcement made on the reopening of schools, we are planning for many different scenarios. All these plans have the health and well-being of our students and faculty as our primary concern.

While we are waiting for more definitive direction here is what we are doing now:

- Monitoring the interim guidance being presented by local agencies, the CDC, and VA Council for Private Education.

- Schools are being cleaned and disinfected following the standards set by the CDC and EPA.
- Surveying our classrooms to find the best ways to configure students seating in order to adhere to different levels of social distancing that may be in place.
- Conducting professional development options for faculty members over the summer on how to best assess students when they return from the summer break to fully meet their needs and to enrich and enhance their instruction in whatever format is deemed necessary.
- Our school nurses and Medical Administration Trained (MAT) personnel are being informed of guidance from Virginia Department of Education and local health agencies.
- We will continue to be transparent in our communications and can assure you that when your children return to our buildings, that we have properly prepared and will continue to adhere to all health and safety guidelines.

Throughout this pandemic, our Catholic schools have continued to provide new material to meet the academic and spiritual needs of our students, ensuring a successful end to the 2019-2020 school year. We are grateful for the partnerships that have been enhanced between our schools and families working together. In this time of uncertainty, we are all in this together and doing our best to prepare for the 2020-2021 school year.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT DURING THIS TIME AND FOR YOUR BELIEF IN CATHOLIC EDUCATION!