

Dear Parents,

I am writing to you today to talk about plans for the reopening of school in the fall. I am grateful for your continued commitment to Catholic education.

First, I want to thank you for your patience and perseverance during the last months of school. I can only imagine how difficult it must have been to abruptly deal with changing work requirements – and in some cases the loss of employment – while also responding to the unexpected challenges of your children’s remote learning as you care for your family.

All of us miss seeing you, and I very much look forward to welcoming you back to school this fall. I do not know what that will look like yet, but the major concern will be stability and safety for your children. I am grateful to our Principal Mrs. O'Bryan, our incoming Interim Principal Ms. Reed, and to all of our teachers who worked so hard this spring to provide virtual instruction, and who are working to plan for the coming year.

Our Superintendent of Schools, Leisa Schulz, and her staff have been supporting our school throughout these months, and she has communicated with Mrs. O'Bryan, Ms. Reed, and me regarding planning for the fall. She is working with us to create plans based on guidance from the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), state and local health departments, and the Kentucky Department of Education (KDE). All of these guidelines and procedures are designed to ensure that we have safe and effective learning environments for employees, students, and families when we return. These will likely include daily health checks, social distancing, hygiene protocols, cleaning and disinfection of facilities, and options for employees and students whose health and family circumstances require it. Ultimately, the course of COVID-19 in the coming weeks and months will guide our responses, but I suspect that having large classrooms and small classes will make all of this much easier for us.

I know that not knowing exactly what the opening of school will look like in August causes additional uncertainty and anxiety. I will keep you updated as I learn more.

Finally, please be in touch with us if you who are experiencing unexpected financial difficulties that may affect your ability to pay tuition. The Catholic Education Foundation has a process for assisting with additional COVID-related difficulties and we also want to help you in whatever way we can.

As always, you are in my prayers.

Fr. Matthew Hardesty

Pastor

St. Catherine Church & Academy

St. Vincent de Paul Church

Church of the Immaculate Conception