

DIOCESE OF COVINGTON
Department of Catholic Schools

August 12, 2020

Dear Catholic School Leaders,

Thank you for your patience and prayers as we work together to begin the 2020–2021 school year. This certainly has been a difficult and challenging time.

After much consultation, including with the Kentucky bishops of Lexington, Louisville and Owensboro, and after hearing from our Catholic school communities, we have decided to begin in-person instruction the week of August 17. The schools have created various models for beginning the school year under the guidance of the Diocese of Covington's Department of Catholic Schools "COVID-19 Return to School Requirements," including an option for at-home learning if a parent decides that would be the best option for their student.

At each school implementation of the requirements will be monitored. During the week of Sept. 6, our experience to date will be evaluated and needed changes will be made at that time.

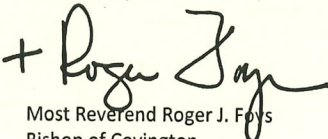
Many factors were considered in making this decision including:

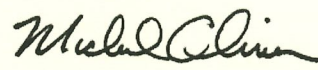
- Pastors, administrators, faculty and staff have been working diligently throughout the summer with their local COVID-19 task force to prepare schools for strict adherence to the COVID-19 requirements. Their commitment to the students is evidenced by the excitement, seriousness and creativity in creating environments that meet the educational and safety needs of their students.
- A desire among the community — priests, principals, parents and students — to be given an opportunity to implement the plans that have been scrupulously developed; and their stated confidence in the plans.
- The understanding that education includes formation of the entire student — mind, body and soul — and is preferably accomplished in a faith community. Our concern for the welfare of our students includes their educational, emotional, social and spiritual development.

As we move forward, we thank our parents for their support. The health of our schools will depend in large part on the health of each individual student. We are depending on our parents to monitor their child's health every day and to keep their child home when they are sick. We expect parents to adhere to the "COVID-19 Return to School Requirements" (a complete copy is available online, www.covdio.org) — frequently washing hands, wearing a mask, maintaining proper social distancing and eliminating unnecessary travel — so that together we can mitigate the spread of the coronavirus in our communities and sustain in-person instruction in our schools.

We express our deepest gratitude to you, our faculty and staff and school community for their selfless commitment to Catholic education. Know that we pray every day for our students, their families, teachers, staff and administrators. Please pray for us.

Devotedly in the Lord,


+ Roger Foy
Most Reverend Roger J. Foy
Bishop of Covington


Michael Clines
Superintendent of Schools