



June 1, 2020

Mary, Mother of the Church

Dear Parents and Guardians,

Truly this school year has been like none other! As we enter June and conclude the 2019-2020 school year, we thank you for your understanding, patience, and support that have enabled us to provide quality, Catholic education to students in varied and different ways. We believe that our students, with your assistance, have benefited from the creative and engaging instruction that has occurred in the past three months. Our schools' immediate response to continuing education beginning Monday, March 16, demonstrated the commitment and preparedness of administrators and teachers and the cooperation of families in the partnership that makes Catholic school education unique and successful.

We have begun to plan for the 2020-2021 school year with the formation of a Start of School Task Force. The task force has three charges:

1. To plan for the safe and meaningful return to school and work for Catholic school students and employees;
2. To offer three design scenarios – in-person, hybrid, and virtual – for the resumption of school and work;
3. To communicate diocesan guidance to schools which will be managed in accord with the specific needs of each local school

To accomplish its goals, a Steering Committee will work with three subcommittees – Education, Health and Wellness, and Community – to propose guidance for parish and diocesan schools in the Diocese of Wilmington. Committee representation includes pastors, administrators, teachers, a medical doctor, nurses, counselors, parents, members of the Board of Catholic Schools, diocesan leadership, and business and community members.

At the present time, our intention is to begin the school year on Tuesday, September 8, adhering to the calendar that was proposed last January for parish and diocesan schools. A copy is provided for your reference. The only change to the calendar is that the Professional Development Day scheduled for Wednesday, September 23, has been cancelled so students will report to school. Any additional changes to your child(ren)'s school calendar that may have been communicated by your school were pre-approved by the Catholic Schools Office to accommodate local situations. Our goal is to maximize student time in school, not knowing what the future months may hold regarding COVID-19.

We hope to communicate with you by the start of August the diocesan plan for the start of the 2020-2021 school year. While all of us would wish to know now what the plan is for September, it would be imprudent for us to present a proposal at this time, for weekly we have seen changes in diocesan and state directives affecting our lives.

Today the Church celebrates Mary, Mother of the Church. May we entrust the work ahead of us for the start of the 2020-2021 school year to her intercession and pray for the patience and perseverance for this work to bring forth the best results for all of us.

Sincerely,

*Louis P. De Angelo*

Louis P. De Angelo, Ed.D.  
Superintendent of Schools