



# DIOCESE OF KANSAS CITY - ST. JOSEPH

*One Family: RESTORED IN CHRIST - EQUIPPED FOR MISSION*

**OFFICE of CATHOLIC SCHOOLS**

Dear Parents,

Looking forward to the 2020-21 school year and beyond, the Kansas City-St. Joseph (KCSJ) Diocesan schools/centers are resolved to do everything we can to reopen our campuses this fall because we believe doing so is in the best interest of our students. The COVID-19 pandemic presents the most serious public health crisis the world has experienced in generations. And yet, we recognize that the KCSJ Diocesan schools/centers need to find a pathway for reopening our campuses safely with the health and well-being of our entire community in mind.

Over the past several months, a team of educators with the help of medical, legal, and mental health professionals have been crafting a template that each KCSJ school/center has used to develop a plan to re-open their school. In crafting the template, the team used the collective best practices from the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), American Academy of Pediatrics, Andrew Greeley Center for Education, the Missouri School Board Association, and the American School in Japan. Each school submitted a plan to the diocesan officials for review in order to assure the plan considers all aspects necessary to maintain students' safety and health. All schools' plans have been submitted and have been approved so that schools can communicate their plan to their community.

The safety of our students, faculty, and staff, as well as their families and friends, is a value we all share. We expect to keep our children both physically and emotionally safe in our schools/centers. While it is possible that students and staff may be exposed to Covid-19 during the course of the day, it is vital everyone knows every reasonable precaution will be taken to ensure their safety while at school.

In some communities, measures taken to prevent Covid-19 infection have ignited conflicts between the liberty of individuals and perceptions of the common good. We do not expect this tension to be reflected in our community. While some see the risks as low, others may be concerned about coming to work or sending their children to school during uncertain times. As a Catholic community, we must respect one another. Members of our school/center communities and visitors to those campuses will:

1. Wear masks, wash hands regularly and follow physical distancing norms when needed..
2. Take responsibility for maintaining a healthy environment.
3. Treat others as people worthy of respect and deserving of a safe environment.
4. Follow self-screening guidelines for symptoms of illness and refrain from coming to the school/ center if symptoms are evident.
5. Comply with self-quarantine guidelines after potential exposure to Covid-19 or travelling to "hot spots" as identified by CDC guidelines.
6. Avoid exposure to the Covid-19 virus by not going to large group events such as going to parties and having children participate in activities which increase their chances of becoming transmitters of the virus.

We all need to be patient and consider how our actions affect those within our community as we continue to spread Christ's love. **In these last few days before school starts, please, please, please make sure to keep your family from being exposed to the virus.** This requires discipline, some level of inconvenience, and a moral-level commitment to protect all those your family will encounter by avoiding large groups. If we all do this, we do this for everyone in the community and decrease our chances of having to move from face-to-face to distance learning.

Yours in Christ,

Dr. Dan Peters  
Superintendent of Schools  
Kansas City, St. Joseph Diocese