



August 8, 2021

Dear Catholic School Families,

I hope you are enjoying these last beautiful weeks of summer and are looking forward to a wonderful school year together this fall. Our schools, as always, have been busy preparing for the return of our students and we are eager to see our hallways filled with the hustle and bustle each new school year brings.

This letter is to inform you of the latest updates and the process our schools will follow regarding health and safety procedures as we reopen this fall. The goal of every decision is to allow each of our schools to safely reopen for full-time, in-person instruction as we did so successfully this past school year. On August 5, 2021, schools were informed that New York State will not be issuing any guidance regarding school reopening procedures and that all decisions will be left to the local level.

Due to the tremendously diverse locations of our Catholic schools, as well as the physical resources, staffing, and facilities unique to each site, every school will be provided with the flexibility and autonomy to develop an individualized reopening strategy to meet the needs of their school community. With the support of the Catholic Schools Office, principals will work with school stakeholders to develop a plan to be shared with the entire school community by Monday, August 23, 2021.

As we are all aware, there are strong opinions and beliefs regarding currently available guidance. Our hope is that the process outlined above will allow our schools the opportunity to not only continue to operate safely in the new school year but to shine within our local communities as an example of teamwork, compassion, and Christian fellowship as we work together for the good of our children. I cannot emphasize enough the need to remain engaged, respectful, and focused on Christ throughout these next few weeks as we navigate our pathway to reopening together. We will truly seek to meet the needs of every family.

Sincerely,

James Tausel  
Superintendent of Schools