



## DIOCESE OF LAS VEGAS CATHOLIC SCHOOLS

June 29, 2020

Dear Elementary School Parents,

I pray this correspondence finds you and your families safe and well. As our planning for the next school year continues, the following will provide an update on the steps we are taking to re-open our schools safely.

The development of our reopening plans has been guided by the Diocesan Restoration Advisory Council that was established by Bishop Thomas (under the medical guidance of Dr. Jeffrey Davidson and Ms. Sandy Young, Registered Nurse), the Nevada Department of Education, and state and government officials.

As a result of this guidance, we have defined the necessary modifications to facilitate in-person instruction at each of our elementary schools and will **resume full-day instruction, five days per week, on-campus beginning Monday, August 17, 2020.**

Our strategies for a return to on-campus instruction center on two principles: health and safety. Our classrooms will be configured to maintain the necessary distancing of students and limiting contact between classes during the school day in order to minimize the potential spread of any illness from group to group. Specific modifications to anticipate include: physical distancing; facial coverings; frequent hand washing; class-level groupings; the expanded use of campus/parish spaces for instruction; and temperature checks upon entry. Some of our schools may see changes to their daily arrival and dismissal procedures, the set-up of classroom desks and furniture, as well as additional approaches to accommodate these new protocols. The layout for every school campus is unique; therefore, specific plans pertaining to these modifications will be communicated by each individual school.

Due to the unpredictability of public health conditions, our schools will prepare distance learning plans should they become necessary. Over the past months we have come to appreciate how vital Catholic schools are to our students; serving as centers of faith, academic excellence, community, and growth.

When we return to on-campus instruction, our goal is to minimize any health risks to our students, educators, and community. We will reduce the risk of COVID-19 by remaining vigilant, consistent, and flexible. Every tool available will be used to ensure that our students are in school - learning and growing in the safest environment possible. Though some protocols may be inconvenient, they are absolutely necessary in order to maintain this safety. We must all work cooperatively to support a healthy learning environment under these new conditions.

To ensure the highest standards of health and safety, we have obtained the essential Personal Protective Equipment (PPE), hand sanitizers, no-touch thermometers, water stations, and sanitizing materials, etc. We will also continue to mandate strong hygiene practices with additional cleaning and appropriate sanitizing measures added throughout the school day.

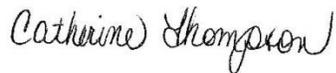
While these last several months have been unprecedented, the mission of our schools has always remained the same. We stand for excellence, but more importantly, we cultivate faith and values, we model community, and we are grateful to be sharing this journey with you.

This coming school year will require the same faith and dedication. On behalf of Bishop Thomas, our administrators, faculty and staff, thank you for your partnership and commitment to Catholic education.

**Open enrollment for the next school year is continuing at each of our seven elementary schools. Should you have friends and family members seeking a Catholic education, please visit our website at [lasvegascatholicschools.org](http://lasvegascatholicschools.org) for links to each of our campuses.**

Hopefully, this brief overview has provided helpful information. As always, should you have specific questions, please contact your school or this office directly. We look forward to welcoming everyone back in August. Be assured that our Catholic schools are here to support you and your children – we remain in this together.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Catherine Thompson".

Catherine Thompson  
Superintendent