



Diocese of Joliet
School Re-Opening
July 22, 2020

Dear Pastors and Principals (Presidents) of our Catholic Schools:

I am very pleased to advise you that our plans are moving forward with full speed to open our Catholic Schools next month.

Our efforts are based on SAFETY and ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE in the context of CATHOLIC IDENTITY.

- I. SAFETY: In keeping with our responsibility in opening our schools in the context of Coronavirus, the following will be required without compromise. As with our Churches, WE CANNOT fulfill our charge without providing the safest environment possible for our teachers, students, administrative personnel or other employees.

Thus, it will be required:

- 1) To utilize masks throughout the school
- 2) Maintaining six-foot social distancing
- 3) Regular hand washing and sanitizing the school daily
- 4) Temperature check each morning
- 5)

It is recognized that some may have different opinions about these measures. Nonetheless, they are universally advocated by recognized experts and medical scientists. We want to protect all to the very best of our ability.

- II. ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE IN THE CONTEXT OF CATHOLIC IDENTITY
As has been their practice, the schools will do all possible to retain the standards of Academic rigor, to enable the students to grow and achieve their intellectual capacity. Catholic culture and formation will continue to be the context in which the education is imparted.

I am very grateful to Dr. Michael Boyle, Superintendent of Schools, his team and the dedicated Principals, teachers, and volunteers who are spending enormous time in achieving this possibility of re-opening our schools. They enjoy my unwavering support.

With appropriate confidence, I am optimistic that our schools will obtain certification for re-opening. This certification will be issued by Dr. Boyle and our Catholic Schools Office. No school will be able to open without certification. Going to this extent and the considerable effort involved are representative of how greatly we value Catholic Education.

Please join me in fervent prayer that the Good Lord will guide us on this journey.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

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Most Reverend Richard E. Pates
Apostolic Administrator
Diocese of Joliet

cc: Most Reverend Ronald Hicks