
September 25, 2020

Dear School Families,

We have communicated regularly since last March when the ongoing national health crisis emerged to share information about our commitment to maintain healthy and safe school communities.

Navigating the shifting landscape of the pandemic has been challenging. All along, our primary focus has been to provide the most holistic experience possible for our students and school families while overcoming the obstacles presented by COVID-19. Keeping our school communities healthy and safe has been and remains our guiding principle informing every decision we make.

On August 24th, we announced that all 17 Archdiocesan high schools in the five-county region would opt out of inter-scholastic athletic competition for the fall season. That difficult decision was made after review of local and State guidelines; recommendations from county health departments in effect at that time; and pandemic related statistics in the region. It was also reflective of our primary focus to open the school year in a safe and timely fashion for all students by utilizing our hybrid instructional model to support academic excellence.

Since the late August announcement, our school administrators have worked closely with senior leadership from the Office of Catholic Education and Faith in the Future to meticulously study pandemic metrics, guidelines, and school COVID profiles as part of our continuous assessment process. After carefully reviewing all possible factors, including the successful opening of our schools, we believe the environment has changed for the better over the past month. As such, we are pleased to share that the time has come to allow the resumption of inter-scholastic athletic competition while continuing to strictly follow health and safety guidelines.

We understand and value the importance of athletics as part of the program of formation within our high schools. We take this opportunity to express our gratitude to our school communities for their trust and support while we appropriately deliberated how to bring back athletic programs with an eye to safety in these unprecedented times. We also pledge to families who do not participate in organized athletic programs that we remain committed to school health and safety. Be assured that we will never sacrifice the safety of our students as it is the guiding principle in all that we do.

A fully developed health and safety plan applicable to all 17 high schools will be shared with you shortly. It will take into account the unique needs and challenges faced by our student-athletes during a pandemic.

Our sincere gratitude goes to our students, parents, teachers, staff, coaches, and administrators for their continued commitment and dedication to the gift of Catholic education.

Sincerely in Christ,



Sister Maureen Lawrence McDermott, I.H.M., Ph.D.
Superintendent of Secondary Schools
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Irene Horstmann Hannan
Chief Executive Officer
Faith in the Future
