



ROMAN CATHOLIC DIOCESE of PORTLAND

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August 12, 2021

Dear Parents and Guardians,

With the hope that the summer is going well for you and your families, I write to offer an advance welcome to another year of Catholic education in Maine. As I often say, though there are many alternatives to Catholic education, there are no substitutes, and we thank you for your continued support.

I recognize that you have awaited news on the safety measures we will put in place for your children to address your child's safety in regards to the pandemic. I thank you for your patience. We wanted to make our decision closer to the opening of school and provide the most up-to-date guidance.

With the spread of the more contagious Delta variant, Maine's Catholic schools will be opening this school year with similar protocols in place as when we closed the school year in June. This includes enforcing a mask mandate for all students, faculty, and staff, regardless of vaccination status, when we return in the coming days and weeks. Face coverings will be worn only inside the school buildings and additional opportunities for learning outside the schools, without face coverings, will be offered. In addition, as we believe students are best served when learning in school, virtual options will occur only during times when a class has to quarantine or for school closure. Also in accordance with last year's protocols, visitors will not be allowed in the school.

This policy will be reviewed periodically to ensure that mask-wearing is in place for as short a time as possible. The health and safety of our unvaccinated children are our top priorities, and these precautions are in place to fulfill that responsibility. Thank you for your understanding. The diocese is grateful for your partnership as we do all we can to provide a safe and healthy school environment for our students.

Our protocols and procedures allowed for classes to be held in person and for five days a week last year. The administrators at all of our Catholic schools are once again planning ways to offer the most outstanding and efficient academic experience possible, and we are confident that our students will flourish as schools continue their return to normalcy over the course of the 2021-22 school year.

Office of Maine Catholic Schools
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This office is funded in part by The Catholic Appeal

Please know that your families are in our prayers, and please tell your children how excited we are to welcome them back for another year of learning, faith, and fun!

May God bless you as we grow closer to Jesus and His Church.

Sincerely,

Marianne Pelletier

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Superintendent