

August 20, 2020



Dear valued parents,

As the start of a new school is upon us, I want to express my deep appreciation for your commitment to your child's education and our Catholic schools during these challenging times. The health, safety and education of your children continues to be of the utmost importance to us. I invite you to review our diocesan reopening plan which can be found online at dmdiocese.org/catholic-schools/covid-19. If you have questions regarding this plan or your school's reopening plan, I invite you to contact your school administrator.

No reopening plan will meet every family's needs, nor be a perfect solution to the challenges we face. We know there is tremendous value in face-to-face instruction and the faith-based learning environment that you and your children have come to expect from us. It remains our goal to open our schools for in-person learning five-days-a-week. However, we understand for some families, a remote learning option may be necessary for medical or other reasons. Therefore, all of our schools have extended the option to choose traditional in-person learning or remote learning for their children. In the event that we are directed to close our school buildings again, all Diocese of Des Moines students will be able to quickly pivot to remote learning that continues their rigorous and personalized education from the teachers they know and love.

Under these dynamic conditions, no plan is truly final. We will continue to reevaluate our strategies in partnership with local public health experts on decisions throughout the 2020-2021 school year. Any new information or changes to our plans will be communicated with all our school families in a timely manner.

With all the unknowns facing schools this year, I understand the apprehension and uncertainty you likely feel. I empathize with these concerns and want you to know that our schools are strong and united. Together we will face this challenge and rise above it. Thank you for entrusting us with the care and education of your children. May you and your family be well, be healthy and be blessed.

With sincere gratitude,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Donna Bishop". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Donna Bishop, Ed.S
Superintendent of Schools
Diocese of Des Moines