



# CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF SPOKANE

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## Office of Education

June 3, 2020

Dear School Families,

The last few months have been ridden with anxiety, uncertainty and emotional tumult. Even through this trying time, I have witnessed again and again love, support, and unfailing compassion. I feel so blessed to work with courageous and undaunted professionals and dedicated and devoted families.

Our schools are committed to serving their communities by providing rich faith formation and academic rigor in a manner keeping with the mission of the Church and teachings of Jesus Christ. In whatever capacity our schools offer instruction to students, they will continue to be faithfully Catholic and serve as an avenue for faith formation.

We all want you- students, parents and educators- to feel comfortable and safe returning to your school environment. The best way to accomplish this, is to create seamless transitions between remote continuous learning and some form of in-person instruction. Understanding that different systems require different solutions, we have identified scheduling models and instructional considerations that can be used to fit the needs of each school community. Modifying school schedules to account for lost instructional time, ensuring maximized learning, and maintaining ongoing health and safety efforts, such as social distancing is of paramount importance.

There is no leading expert in a response to schooling during a pandemic. Schools are experiencing this unprecedented phenomenon for the first time in solidarity with all nations.

Our Schools are focusing planning for next school year in the following key areas: **Sanitation/Safety**, **Curriculum & Instruction**, synchronizing in class learning with remote continuous learning, and **Community**, promoting our faith and Catholic traditions.

We take comfort in the strength and creativity of our schools and the stability of our family partnerships during this ambiguous time. It's truly a team effort to keep our community strong. We ask for the prayers of our Catholic community as we continue the Church's ministry of Catholic Education.

Blessings,

Katie Rieckers  
Director of Catholic Schools