



June 3, 2020

Memorial of Saint Charles Lwanga and Companions, Martyrs

From: David Dean, Superintendent

To: Parents of Catholic Schools Students in the Diocese of Tulsa

Re: Plans for Re-opening Catholic Schools in August 2020

MEMORANDUM

We hope you are well and enjoying the summer break!

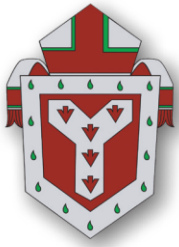
When we closed our schools in March due to COVID-19, we were very concerned for the health of your children and our faculty and staff. Therefore, we engaged in distance learning for the final quarter of this school year. There were many challenges for both you, as parents, and we, as educators, but we worked together to provide the best education for your children.

Our Catholic schools are sanctuaries of evangelization for the young in our Diocese. They are an integral part of our pastoral work and we are committed to the development of the mind, body and soul of every student. As Catholic educators, we proclaim Christ as the standard and measure of our life and embrace the great tradition of which we are the inheritors. To be separated from you and our school communities has been extremely difficult because we cannot enjoy the community and presence of one another's company. Distance learning isn't natural. We are meant to be in communion in the deepest sense of that word. Yet, we must be hopeful!

We have been and will continue to monitor city, state and federal guidelines, and we are hopeful that in the Diocese of Tulsa and Eastern Oklahoma, our Catholic schools will be able to reopen in a normal manner with additional safety protocols in place. In the coming summer weeks, the schools in the Diocese will be working together to develop contingency plans should we learn or be advised that we may not be able to reopen schools in August as we anticipate. These plans could take on several different forms; altered schedules, postponed starting dates to distance learning for a specified amount of time. Your respective principals will be communicating with you during the summer as our plans develop based on government guidelines and prevailing conditions.

I know that the uncertainty is a challenge for many families. The need to have absolute and immediate answers is real and powerful. However, much is still unknown about the ongoing issues that may be presented by COVID-19 with the reopening of businesses, communities and eventually schools. I pray that each of you understands that our plans must be flexible, but that our hope remains to return to school as normally as possible in August.

Your principals will keep you posted in the coming weeks of any changes to usual protocols and safety measures you will need to know prior to the onset of the 2020-2021 school year. Please



know that any changes in policies and/or protocols will be made to ensure the safety of our students, faculty, staff and your families to the greatest extent possible. No plan will be perfect nor will we please all families, but we ask for your prayers, patience, and understanding during this remarkable time in our world's history.

Please continue offering prayers for those afflicted with COVID-19, those who may be afflicted in the future, for all healthcare workers and those who are the most vulnerable in our community. In these confused and troubled times, let us take to heart the words of St. Paul to the Romans, "May the God of hope fill you with all peace and joy."

End of Memorandum