



June 29, 2020

The Solemnity of Saints Peter and Paul, Apostles

Dear Catholic School Parents,

I hope that your summer is safe and restful. We, in Catholic education, are called to be in communion with one another and this communion manifests itself in our school communities. This participation in community was interrupted in the middle of March due to the pandemic. As we plan for the August reopening of schools, our first priority is to be in school together again with all the appropriate precautions on the scheduled opening day. We are meant to be together in our schools. No one denies that the best education is face to face. The ability to teach, learn, encourage, celebrate, discipline, laugh and cry are integral aspects of school life especially when experienced in a spirit of patience and love. This is the essence of a Catholic school!

Your principals and I have been meeting weekly since March to plan what school would look like in August. We have had meetings with the Tulsa Health Department, consulted with other dioceses and the offices of the USCCB in Washington, DC and with our own legal counsel on how to prudently and safely return to our schools and do what Christ has called us to do.

We need your help as primary educators of your children. Please begin to talk to your children about how school may be a little different when they return in August. For example, there will be social distancing, temperatures will be taken, school schedules may be altered, lunch and/or physical education may be changed, teachers may rotate classrooms instead of the students, some students or teachers may be wearing masks. I believe it is important that you discuss these things with your children before they return to school. You will receive specific school guidelines from your respective principals.

The principals have made other plans if we cannot reconvene our schools in a normal manner. These alternate plans will be communicated to you by your principals. We will default to these alternate plans if advised by the appropriate health authorities that we must do so. While we always hope and pray for the best, what the pandemic will look like in early August is an unknown.

We look forward to seeing you in August. Please pray that we may return to school in a healthy manner. Also, pray for the health of all who have experienced the effects of Covid-19 whether personally or through family and friends. Please don't hesitate to contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely in Christ,

David Dean

TOGETHER, OUR FAITH GOES FURTHER

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