



OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT ❖ OFFICE OF CATHOLIC SCHOOLS & CENTERS
Pastoral Center ❖ PO Box 40200 ❖ St. Petersburg, FL, 33743-0200 ❖ PH: 727-347-5539 ❖ Fax: 727-341-6848

TASK FORCE ON CATHOLIC EDUCATION – Update #1

Dear Catholic School Parents and Guardians,

June 18, 2020

As you are aware, the Office of Catholic Schools and Centers of the Diocese of St. Petersburg has organized a special committee to establish guidelines and procedures for reopening Catholic schools for the 2020-21 school year. The committee is meeting regularly throughout the summer to monitor the evolving situation and process new information as it develops. The task force consists of the following nine committees whose membership includes teachers, administrators, clergy, emergency management, and health care professionals:

- Protocols for Opening Schools
- Safety and Security
- Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment
- Spirituality, Liturgies, and Faith
- Social and Emotional Supports
- Finance, Operations, and Athletics
- Communications and Marketing
- Early Childhood Specific Issues
- High School Specific Issue

Reopening Catholic Schools

Any discussion about reopening schools is grounded in the fact that we are still in a very fluid situation and will need to adapt as the year progresses. In addition, it is important to note that we operate early childhood centers, elementary schools, and high schools of various sizes in five counties. Currently, our plan is to reopen all schools on schedule starting on August 10th. We will maintain a strong academic and faith environment while protecting the safety of our children and employees. To ensure the most effective onsite implementation of safety procedures, we have requested that each school organize its own local committee as well. Your school will be communicating with you directly about your local committee.

Our reopening plans consist of three scenarios. The first is a full reopening with appropriate detection, social distancing, and other safety procedures. This is our preferred option. The second scenario is a blended model where students attend classes in-person part of the time and use online learning platforms at other times. The third scenario is a fully online experience. As the situation develops, we may need to make use of all three scenarios to varying degrees throughout the year. Lastly, we are planning for flexibility for students who may be temporarily quarantined or are not able to attend school due to a medical or other life condition.

We will continue to send updates throughout the summer about the work of the Task Force. If you have questions or suggestions, you can email the Task Force at taskforce@dospocsc.org. The past year has demonstrated that we cannot accurately predict the future. However, we can plan and act with prudence, faith, and creativity. That is our promise.

Sincerely in Christ,

Christopher L. Pastura
Superintendent of Catholic Schools and Centers
Diocese of St. Petersburg