



DIOCESE OF OWENSBORO
Catholic Schools Office

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Parents and Families,

I know that you are asking some of the same questions that are rambling around the heads of every parent in this country right now and rightfully so. We are in a whole new era of what the school day will look like for parents, students, and children. The problem still lies in the “uncertainty” of this virus and the new information that is learned about it each and every day.

Since March 12, I have received information every single day from an official at the national, state, or local level that has forced me to change an idea or plan immediately to adapt to new guidelines. This has been a grueling process, but I work with the best set of professional administrators and educators I have ever had the pleasure of working with. They have taken every change in stride to ensure that our students are being taken care of. With that being said, we are now looking at the immense task of evaluating all the factors that will make our “return to school” or RTS plans safe for all of our students, faculty and staff.

The questions that you are asking are just the tip of the iceberg of what we are addressing and developing at all levels. In the Diocese of Owensboro, we have 17 schools in 9 different county school systems. Each school will have its own set of procedures that will need to be met for their specific situations and buildings. The good news is that the communication between the Kentucky Department of Education, the Kentucky Department of Health, and Superintendents (both public and private) has been tremendous. We meet each week to discuss new changes and to address questions coming from a school perspective. By the end of this week (June 19, 2020), we should be receiving a document from public health, “Healthy @ School”, which will outline guidance for all schools in the state for creating a “return to school” plan. It will take time to evaluate how we will adjust to all the procedures that come into play in a school every single day. This is why it is so hard to give concrete answers at this point.

Our office will continue to update our principals and staff on any new developments or ideas. We are currently in contact with a large number of dioceses across the country and sharing thoughts on how to address the issues we face. Even with all this information, we still have to enter the year knowing that there will have to be adjustments made along the way. Just as we did with NTI, we must be flexible and adapt plans accordingly to do what is best for our families.

In conclusion, we are asking our families to be patient with our principals, faculty, and staff as we continually work together to create plans for the best possible return to school for our students and families. We are committed to this planning and we will all get through this together!

God Bless,

David Kessler
Superintendent of Catholic Schools