

June 19, 2020

Dear St. Cecilia School Families,

The Department of Catholic Schools (DCS) Return to School Task Force has been working since early May to put together a framework for the 2020-2021 school year. The main goal is to offer a faith-filled education in a safe environment, taking into consideration information from the CDC, OHA, the Oregon Department of Education, and the governor's mandates for re-opening Oregon. The framework is a guide for schools to plan for the coming year. There are many checklists and considerations for schools to review regarding health and safety with the intention of being on campus in the fall. Each school will do a self-assessment and make sure that they are following guidelines as they put together plans for reopening campus. Schools will work in collaboration with the DCS to put together a plan for success. Plans may vary given which county the school resides or the student numbers.

While our ultimate goal is to be on campus in the fall, our highest priority is the safety of your children and the staff. St. Cecilia School is working with our own safety committee in order to ensure that we have followed all the guidelines to open in the fall. St. Cecilia School is following the CDC, OHA, ODE, and DCS guidelines. Under these guidelines, it is strongly recommended that students wear face masks/coverings/shields, but these will not be required to be worn for the entire day. Given that, we must also prepare for a hybrid model of education if there is a resurgence of COVID-19 in Oregon and the Governor of Oregon chooses to close the schools again. Our teachers will continue professional development on innovative instructional methods in the classroom and for distance learning.

We appreciate your support and collaboration this year and know that our Catholic schools continue to be a beacon of faith, hope, and education because of our partnership with families. I hope that as we work towards educating our students in the faith, we all model Christ's peace in our hearts for one another.

"Let us continue to pray for all those that are suffering in our world, nation, and community. Let us ask God for wisdom, strength and courage as we entrust ourselves to His care for the future months. May we all be able to come together in the fall to continue our call to educate our students."

Thank you so much to everyone for all the support and partnership while we navigate these uncharted times. We truly appreciate the faith and community here at St. Cecilia School. Please continue to pray that there is not a resurgence of COVID-19 in Oregon and that the Governor allows students to return to campus full-time in the fall. Please look for another update in early August as guidelines within the state become more clear.

Blessings,
Lillie Stevens

P.S. Please respond to the survey sent out in the email! You will get to help shape our next school year!