



DIOCESE OF STOCKTON

CATHOLIC SCHOOLS

May 1, 2020

Dear Catholic School Community:

I pray that this note finds you healthy and well as we continue our stay-at-home order. Whether we are gathered together in a virtual classroom or participating in a streaming Mass, the past seven weeks have proven that our Catholic schools and families continue to be committed to academic excellence, faith formation, and community.

A few days ago Governor Newsom announced that the 2020-2021 school year may start as early as July to make up for learning lost this spring. As we have previously communicated, our Catholic schools were able to pivot quickly and adapt to distance learning almost overnight; thereby minimizing any potential loss. At this point in time, we are proceeding with the assumption that schools will return to their respective campuses in August, as originally scheduled.

As we look to returning in August, there are still many uncertainties surrounding the transition back to campus, some of which may be dictated by the state. As members of the California Association of Private School Organizations, we have been reassured that no formal consideration of protocols for the reopening of campuses has been launched at the state level, and that the views and concerns of the private school community will definitely be sought. The health and safety of our students and teachers continue to guide our decision-making, and we are exercising both creativity and caution as we vision our return. Please know that we are discussing contingency plans with health agencies and principals as well as collaborating with other dioceses throughout California. Social distancing, disinfecting protocols, hand washing, and technology are at the heart of our conversations as we draft plans to bring our students back to their beloved schools. Rest assured we will keep you updated as plans unfold.

Pope Francis tells us, "Hope opens new horizons, making us capable of dreaming what is not even imaginable." As people of faith, may we be filled with the hope of the Risen Lord as we carefully plan and courageously dream for the future of our Catholic schools.

May you and yours be blessed,

Marian DeGroot Graham
Director for Catholic Schools