



Catholic Schools
A Faith-Based Education
that Lasts a Lifetime

December 11, 2020

Dear Archdiocese of Washington Families and Staff,

It is with deep gratitude that I thank our school leaders, teachers, staff, students, and families for their dedication to keeping our Catholic schools open during these trying times. I recognize the hard work and sacrifices everyone is making for the greater good of our Catholic communities. I continue to be most grateful for the many hours and careful work that our school leaders and staff have committed to making our schools safe spaces for children to learn and employees to work.

As we approach the Christmas holidays, I want to echo the directives of state and district leaders and remind you to celebrate safely in an effort to keep the spread of COVID-19 low in our school communities. I am asking Archdiocese of Washington families and staff to avoid large gatherings and mixing of groups to reduce the spread of the virus and keep our family, friends, and the #ADWcommUNITY healthy. The safest way to celebrate is with the people who live in your household. Please visit the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) for information on [celebrating the holidays](#).

If you must travel during the holiday season, please be aware of guidelines and restrictions for the [District of Columbia](#) and [Maryland](#). During travel, the CDC recommends wearing a mask at all times, avoiding close contact by staying at least 6 feet apart from others, and washing your hands often with soap and water. Review [travel information](#) during the COVID-19 pandemic, from the CDC. If you choose to travel or expand your family “bubble,” then, please remember to follow appropriate directives for quarantine and isolation. It is critically important to inform your school principal of travel and the need to transition to distance learning for the necessary timeframe. In order to keep our positive cases low and avoid unnecessary exposure, everyone in our community must be transparent regarding their risk of exposure and the important decision to self-quarantine for the health and safety of the greater school community.

We all have a shared responsibility to follow safety guidelines and protocols to keep everyone safe and healthy. To continue to operate our schools with in-person learning, we must make decisions that align with practices for the greater good of all. Our schools have a responsibility to safeguard employees and students and limit the spread of the virus. I support and encourage school leaders to implement additional measures, if necessary, to ensure safety and good health.

I wish each of you a very blessed Christmas holiday and joyful New Year. Thank you for all you do to keep our schools safe spaces for children to learn.

Sincerely in Christ,

Kelly Branaman
Secretary for Catholic Schools
Superintendent of Schools

ARCHDIOCESE OF WASHINGTON CATHOLIC SCHOOLS

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