



**Catholic Education
Office**

Diocese of Rockford

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Dear Principals, Teachers, Staff and School Families,

We hope this letter finds all of you healthy, happy and able to relax and enjoy these early days of summer vacation. After just completing, arguably, the most difficult and challenging period in the history of our Diocesan Catholic school system, you all deserve a respite from the stress and worry that Covid-19 brought on all of us.

Although there is still much uncertainty about how the pandemic might affect education in the coming months, we want to assure you that the Diocesan Catholic Education Office has begun developing a plan to re-open our schools for the 2020-21 school year. We are studying guidelines provided by the C.D.C. (Center for Disease Control), the I.D.P.H. (Illinois Department of Public Health), the I.S.B.E. (Illinois State Board of Education) as well several county health departments to formulate a plan that will allow our elementary and high schools to re-open on time. We obviously cannot see into the future and predict what the Covid-19 situation may look like in late August. Still we are confident that by taking necessary health precautions, our Catholic schools will once again be open and be able to provide the same high quality education it has for over 100 years.

The Catholic Education Office will be in communication with our school administrators throughout the summer as details of the plan emerge. Once the plan is finalized, we will make sure that you, as stakeholders, will have access to it either on-line or in hard copy form.

All of us at the Catholic Education Office are committed to ensuring that our students receive the best Catholic education possible in as safe and secure an environment as possible. We look forward to the return to on-site education. The school environment may look somewhat different but the quality and commitment will not change.

Let us continue to pray over the coming weeks and months for an end to the pandemic and a return to our school buildings for our students, teachers and administrators.

God Bless and Stay Safe,

Michael Kagan,
Superintendent of Schools

Vito DeFrisco,
Assistant Superintendent of Schools

Elizabeth Heitkamp,
Assistant Superintendent of Schools