



September 15, 2020

Dear Faculty and Staff:

Today marks two weeks since September 1 when our parish and diocesan elementary and secondary schools reopened. We are pleased to report that among the 5980 students in the 19 schools, only eight (8) COVID-positive cases have been reported. These eight cases have been in both elementary and secondary schools. The Start-of-School plans of the Diocese and the schools, the preparations by school administrators, the attentiveness of teachers and staff to implementing school plans, and the cooperation of families at home have all led to our success at this time.

We are grateful to you for all you have done resulting in our initial success. Your commitment of time and energy in meeting the needs of students, the concerns of parents, and the regular business of beginning a new school year is commendable. Now we must remain diligent to the four prescriptive practices that fight the spread of COVID.

- 1. Wear a mask at all times.**
- 2. Practice social distancing in the school building and on school grounds**
- 3. Wash (sanitize) hands regularly throughout the day.**
- 4. Screen students and school personnel prior to their arrival at school each day.**

Keeping these practices in the forefront of our decisions and actions will protect all of us.

Our current school arrangement (in-person, hybrid, and virtual) will remain in place in schools through Monday, October 12. A second learning cycle will be announced by the start of October. This learning cycle (October 13-November 24) will be based upon the directives of the state governments of Delaware and Maryland, recommendations from the Division (Department) of Public Health in each state, research from appropriate sources, and leadership from the Start-of-School Task Force for the Diocese of Wilmington.

Thank you for all you continue to do to keep our students and our colleagues safe and healthy. You remain in our prayers as we seek the intercession of Mary, Our Lady of Sorrows, on her feast day today for an end to this pandemic.

Sincerely,

Louis P. De Angelo

Louis P. De Angelo, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools