



August 21, 2020

Dear School Families and School Personnel,

For the last six months I have written separate letters to school families and school personnel to address specific issues about the diocesan response to COVID. From information about the closure of schools on Friday, March 13, through the dissemination of **Forward in Faith**, the diocesan start-of-school plan, on Friday, July 31, monthly letters have kept you informed about decisions and actions related to the parish and diocesan schools of the Diocese of Wilmington. This letter is written to everyone since it is a message for all of us.

As the new school year begins with the arrival of students in some schools this upcoming week, nothing is more essential at this time than COVID compliance. Emphasis should be given regularly to the four practices that will ensure a safe and healthy start to the 2020-2021 school year:

Masks
Social Distancing
Handwashing
Screening

Our students, their families, and school personnel will remain safe and healthy if everyone models these behaviors and holds one another accountable for them.

In addition, with the upcoming Labor Day weekend, you are encouraged to consider a stay-at-home weekend, if possible. It is anticipated that Labor Day vacations may result in an increase in the spread of COVID within the two weeks following the holiday. To mitigate the spread of the virus, please consider remaining at home. Your decision will affect all of us.

Thank you for your ongoing support of Catholic school education. Let us continue to hold one another in prayer as we start the new school year.

Sincerely,

Louis P. De Angelo

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