



July 31, 2020

Dear Colleagues,

Now midway through summer, we hope this letter finds you and your family well. Although schools are closed, much work has occurred in preparation for the new school year. As we shared with you in early July, a task force comprised of clergy, Diocesan leadership, Board of Catholic Schools members, school educators, medical personnel, parents, and community members has been working diligently to offer proposals for the start of school. The result of their work is [Forward in Faith](#), the start-of-school plan for the parish and diocesan schools of the Diocese of Wilmington.

Based upon these guidelines, your principal will forward to you information about the opening of the 2020-2021 academic year. Many of you have volunteered to serve in developing your local school plan. Thank you for the time and expertise you have so generously shared for this purpose.

In all schools Pre-Kindergarten, Kindergarten, and Grade 1 instruction will be held daily in-person. In schools with total enrollment fewer than 250 students, either an in-person or hybrid model will be offered in Grades 2-12. In schools with total enrollment greater than 250 students, a hybrid model will be provided in Grades 2-12. A hybrid model provides for some students to be present in person while other students learn at home. Health and safety, along with faith formation, academic success, and social-emotional balance, have been priorities in the creation of *Forward in Faith* and we believe that this method of opening school will meet these goals. Specific details related to your school will be communicated by your school.

The in-person and hybrid scenarios for the opening of schools will be in effect until Monday, October 14. These models will be studied carefully to see if they are effective in maintaining health and safety while providing for quality Catholic education. At the beginning of October, you will learn if any changes need to be made to the existing scenario for your school.

We recognize that these are challenging times as we reopen schools, but we are confident in your ability to do what's right and reasonable, to remain positive, to be a problem-solver, and, most especially, to adhere to health and safety protocols. Be assured of our prayers and gratitude each day.

Sincerely,

*Louis P. De Angelo*

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