



# Catholic Diocese of Saginaw

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6/16/20

Dear Catholic School Community,

Nearly three months ago, we embarked on a journey no one could have anticipated. Throughout this journey, students, parents, teachers, and administrators worked diligently to continue learning. I greatly appreciate your personal, as well as the collective display of perseverance and commitment to education during the closure. We learned new content and so much more. We discovered the pros and cons to virtual learning. We experimented with new educational platforms. We found new ways to connect and unique ways to celebrate and recognize our graduates. We will continue to learn as we plan for the 2020-21 school year. As we look to the future, please consider the following.

- The school principals and I are praying, hoping, and are preparing for a return to traditional (face-to-face, 5 days per week) instruction in the fall. Barring any changes to state law and/or executive orders, our schools will operate (relative to daily schedules), largely as they did prior to March 13, 2020. As the diocese has schools across mid-Michigan, it is possible that school operations will vary based on local conditions and/or regulations.
- If we are not able to return to traditional instruction, or if we experience a disruption during the school year, we will have a plan in place that will allow for an effective and smooth transition. Parent and student feedback, as well as information shared by teachers, has been and will continue to be an important part of our review and planning. We are also exploring options for families who may prefer an online platform.
- The Diocese of Saginaw Back to School Task Force has begun its work. Every Catholic school is represented on the task force. A list of all participants has been included with this letter. I deeply appreciate the commitment of the task force members and look forward to working with them over the coming weeks. Our work will be guided by two primary questions: (1) What are the barriers, challenges, and issues our schools (and by association, our parishes) will face in an effort to return to school in the fall? (2) How can we best mitigate these barriers, challenges, and issues? Throughout this process, we may be asking for your feedback. I look forward to sharing updates with you as we move forward.
- On the state level, I have continued to work with the Michigan Department of Education suburban work group to support the goal of returning to school in the fall. We are currently preparing our recommendations for Dr. Rice, State Superintendent. Dr. Rice will share our work with the COVID-19 task force as well as the Return to Learn Council established by the governor. I have also been in regular contact with a colleague who is serving on the rural work group.



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I am confident that each of our schools are taking appropriate actions to create a healthy and safe environment for our students, staff, faculty, and guests. If it were possible to make a definitive statement as to what school will look like in the fall, I would gladly do so. Unfortunately, this is simply not feasible at this time, nor would it be appropriate to do so. The coming two months will bring many different predictions related to school in the fall. I caution you to avoid getting too excited or too pessimistic based on such projections. Just as we learned so much during the closure, we will gain significant insight over the summer months that will guide our decision-making process.

I will continue to work with our principals to keep you informed with relevant and accurate information as we move forward. Thank you for choosing a Catholic education for your child. You have entrusted us with your most precious gift, your child. This is not a responsibility we take lightly. We remained committed to providing a Catholic education in a safe and healthy environment.

Respectfully,

Cormac Lynn  
Superintendent of Catholic Schools  
[clynn@dioceseofsaginaw.org](mailto:clynn@dioceseofsaginaw.org)  
989-860-6567

## Diocese of Saginaw, Back to School Task Force

School Affiliation	Name	Background	Group
All Saints	Andrew Gielda	Teacher, All Saints	Operations
All Saints	Dr. Rosarita Rullan	ER physician	Operations
All Saints	Herb Broughton	Technology Director, All Saints	Instruction
All Saints	James Czyzewski	Parent, IT Manager at Delta	Instruction
All Saints	Rebecca Dengler	Parent/business owner	Faith and Wellness
All Saints	Lisa Rhodus	Principal, All Saints Elementary	Faith and Wellness
Auburn	Stephanie Horschig	Nurse	Facilities
NA	Deb Wurdock	Catholic Family Services	Faith and Wellness



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NA	Sr. Koterba	Catholic Family Services	Faith and Wellness
Nouvel	Bethany Malott	Family practice, PA	Facilities
Nouvel	Jackie Miros	Parent, Kindergarten Aide,	Facilities
Nouvel	Marcie Kennedy	Compliance Officer	Facilities
Nouvel	Ed Sprauge	Facilities Manager, Nouvel	Facilities
Nouvel	Philip Serier	Engineering manager, involved with bringing workforce back	Operations
Nouvel	Sigrid Messana	Licensed physician	Operations
Nouvel	Al Warr	Interior design/facility manager	Facilities
Nouvel	Betsy Christensen	Delta/Nouvel Faculty	Instruction
Nouvel	Carol Ann Lewis	Parent, Masters in Education/teacher	Instruction
Nouvel	Ellen Burtch	Music educator, Nouvel	Instruction
Nouvel	Jennifer Jennings	Teacher (technology), Nouvel	Instruction
Nouvel	Jill A Schlicker	Teacher, Nouvel	Instruction
Nouvel	Jen Thieme Kehres	Parent, Director of Business development	Faith and Wellness
Nouvel	LeAnne Osborn	Parent, member of Nat. Assoc. of the Catechesis of the Good Shepherd	Faith and Wellness
Nouvel	Michele Reynolds	Parent, Higher Ed	Faith and Wellness
Nouvel	Molly Borges	Teacher, Nouvel , early childhood	Faith and Wellness
Nouvel	Janna Witten	Teacher, Nouvel	Instruction
Our Lady of Lake Huron	Michele Kabban	Behavior consultant and an LEA Coordinator, Huron ISD	Faith and Wellness
Sacred Heart	Mark Wacker	PhD in infectious disease, member of CMU faculty	Instruction
Sacred Heart	Cara Lynch	Audit safety/environmental management systems. former township clerk	Facilities
Sacred Heart	Andy Theisen	Facilities/Maintenance, Sacred Heart	Facilities
Sacred Heart	Wendy Endres	Parent, public school educator	Operations
Sacred Heart	Dan Haggart	Athletic Director, Sacred Heart	Operations
Sacred Heart	Kathryn Pickens	Parent, works in mental health field	Faith and Wellness
St. Brigid	Rachel Acker	Business owner, parent	Facilities
St. Brigid	Shannin Martin	Family medicine physician	Facilities



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St. Brigid	Laura L Minuth	Parent, Masters in education, consultant for performance improvement at Dow	Operations
St. Brigid	Lynne Lundberg	Nurse	Operations
St. Brigid	Laura Wilkowski	Principal, St. Brigid	Instruction
St. Elizabeth	Gabbie Marguery	Principal, St. Elizabeth	Facilities
St. Elizabeth	Dina Territo	Teacher/CRE at St Elizabeth, parent	Faith and Wellness
St. Joseph the Worker	Tom Gross	Vice-President, Isabella bank	Operations
St. Joseph the Worker	Joe Trommater	Clare-Gladwin RESD, Data/Special Projects Coordinator	Instruction
St. Mary	Nancy Schultz	Business Manager, Nativity of the Lord/St. Mary School	Facilities
St. Mary	Stacy Wonsey-Anderson	Business owner	Facilities
St. Mary	Lisa Seeley	Principal, St. Mary	Operations
St. Michael	Kelli Ivey	Medical Professional	Operations