



Dear School Families-

Recently, new metrics for being on school campuses were released by ODE in conjunction with the governor's office and the OHA. At the same time, Oregon is having a surge in COVID-19 cases. These are anxious times. Each school must follow the metrics and observe the safety guidelines and protocols. This is important in order to be able to best serve our students while keeping everyone safe. We continue to work closely with the governor's office and the Oregon Federation of Independent Schools to discern the best path forward to attend to all of the needs of our students and families, while maintaining safety for all in our care.

There is not complete consensus for the path forward. Disagreement is normal; each school has a different set of circumstances to consider. However, as a people of faith and hope, it is important that we work together to pursue the "kingdom of God". On October 15th, Pope Francis addressed the Congregation for Catholic Education with "**GLOBAL COMPACT ON EDUCATION. TOGETHER TO LOOK BEYOND**". He was addressing the world about a global compact on education to best serve all children and the world into the future. He posited the following:

“Finally, dear brothers and sisters, we want to commit ourselves courageously to developing an educational plan within our respective countries, investing our best energies and introducing creative and transformative processes in cooperation with civil society. In this, our point of reference should be the social doctrine that, inspired by the revealed word of God and Christian humanism, provides a solid basis and a vital resource for discerning the paths to follow in the present emergency”.

I implore you to support your schools and faith-filled communities with love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. ...the fruits of the Holy Spirit. Know that we all pray for wisdom in discerning what will serve our students and families' needs best. Each school may have a bit different approach to these needs. We need to honor one another's decisions, continue to live in communion with one another, and be a source of strength for our entire Catholic school community.

Also, please follow the safety guidelines to help all of Oregon bring down the case count so that we can all be back in school. Wear masks, socially distance, practice hand hygiene, and stay home for the upcoming holidays.

Christ's Peace-

Jeannie Ray-Timoney, Ed.D.
Superintendent
Archdiocese of Portland