



July 16, 2020

Dear Catholic Schools of Broome County Families & Staff,

I hope you are all enjoying the beautiful summer weather we have been experiencing! The Principals and I would like to express our sincere thanks to all for your patience as we deal with the impact of the pandemic on our community. Your ongoing support and commitment to our schools has been critical during these uncertain times.

I want to take a moment to first update you about changes in leadership for our Board of Directors. Mr. John Mirabito has served as Board Chair for 5 years and has now moved into the role of Board Secretary. Mr. Jon Sarra (SCC '93) has served as Board Secretary for 5 years and has now moved into the role of Board Chair. Both John and Jon bring amazing talent to our School Board and we are grateful to have them continue to be involved in leadership roles. Dr. Mary John Lalor has assumed the role of Vice Chair replacing former Vice Chair Dr. Jennifer Redmore (SCC '89), who served on the Board for many years. Both Jenn and Mary have also provided exceptional service to our Board. Please join me in welcoming Jon Sarra and Mary John to their new roles and also thanking John Mirabito and Jenn Redmore for their outstanding service in their previous roles.

I know everyone is anxiously waiting to hear about school reopening plans. Governor Cuomo announced plans to reopen schools regionally for those areas where COVID infection is low. Since Broome County has done a great job mitigating the COVID infection, we currently expect to reopen our buildings for all of our students. Based on our smaller class sizes, we anticipate being able to offer 5 day a week face-to-face classes using 6 feet social distancing in our classrooms.

We all know that circumstances can change quickly with the pandemic and if no face-to-face teaching is permitted, we are prepared to adjust our plans accordingly. Therefore, we are also planning a hybrid model in which faculty will offer synchronous classroom and remote learning as well as a new fully remote model. The hybrid model could be used if students are taking courses from home because they or their parents have concerns about face-to-face classes or if our numbers exceed the State mandated capacity to maintain 6 feet apart in classrooms and other spaces. If a fully remote model is needed, it will now follow the students' daily schedules and instruction will be provided for each class. Training for students and parents will be available if needed for either of these additional teaching models.

We would like to accommodate the needs of our Catholic School community and before we finalize our planning, we are requesting that parents complete a short survey to assist us in understanding your needs and learning preferences. The survey will be sent to you via email within one week. Please know that our administrative team is working diligently to plan for the reopening of our schools. We appreciate your assistance with the upcoming survey and will have more information to you very soon.

Sincerely,

Elizabeth Carter, PhD
President, Catholic Schools of Broome County

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