



July 21, 2020

Dear Diocese of Monterey Catholic School Community,

**New Criteria to Reopen Schools**

Last Friday, July 17, Governor Newsom announced that all TK-12 schools in California, both public and private, will be held to new requirements for resuming in-person instruction. As a result, **the Catholic schools in the Diocese of Monterey are preparing to open the 2020-2021 school year with distance learning.**

As of today, July 21, three of the four counties in the Diocese of Monterey – **Monterey, San Luis Obispo and San Benito** – are on the State’s county monitoring list and are subject to increased restrictions. **Santa Cruz County** has met the criteria to be on the State’s monitoring list. When a county has been off the monitoring list for 14 days, then schools in that county will be allowed to reopen to in-person instruction.

**School-site Plans**

Our schools have been hard at work finalizing site-based operation plans to ensure the health and safety of students and staff. The plans are built on the guidance issued by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the California Department of Public Health and the California Department of Education. Additionally, the plans are developed in consultation with the different County Offices of Education and County Departments of Health in our Diocese. These plans will be updated to reflect the new guidance and will continue to be revised as the situation evolves.

**Continued Gratitude and Prayers**

This new announcement comes at a time when many of us are eagerly and anxiously awaiting the first day of school. I know we all hoped to welcome our students back to campus for in-person instruction. In the interest of public health and safety, the return has been delayed for now, but I remain hopeful. With this new directive, our schools have a clear path to reopening our campuses. We will certainly keep you informed if any changes develop.

I extend my gratitude to the principals, administrators, teachers and staff for their tremendous work in preparing for the coming year. As the spring of 2020 showed us, our schools will continue to provide a quality program, to nurture each student’s spirituality and to ensure academic excellence. I also extend my gratitude to our parents and families for having faith in our schools and for continuing to be our partners.

We ask the Lord to guide our steps in the weeks and months to come.

*May the Lord bless you and keep you.  
May the Lord let his face shine upon you and be gracious to you.  
May the Lord look upon you kindly and give you peace.*

Blessings,

Kimberly Cheng  
Superintendent of Schools