



July 17, 2020

Dear Lumen Christi Academies Students, Staff, Families and Advocates,

The Lumen Christi Academies are ***United in Mission*** and will provide rigorous, meaningful and quality instruction, regardless of the mode of delivery. We value our home/school partnership and continue to work collaboratively to ensure students the learning experience they deserve. Our goal is to return safely to our school buildings for in-person instruction for the 2020 - 21 school year. As we have shared throughout the summer, the return to school decision is based on local County Health Guidelines. State officials have placed 32 of California's 58 counties on a watch list based on coronavirus transmission and hospitalization rates.



***Alameda and Contra Costa Counties are both on the California Watch List, which prohibits Lumen Christi Academies from having in-person learning at this point in time.***

Our leadership team recognizes how students, staff and families will receive this news with a variety of emotions: joy, relief, frustration, fear, concern, uncertainty. No doubt you also have countless questions about what this means and how it may impact the start of the year. Our principals have decided to streamline the question process by asking students, staff and families to forward all questions to the following email address: [info@lumenchristiacademies.org](mailto:info@lumenchristiacademies.org). This will allow us to generate a FAQ document that will be shared with all schools in our network.

While we're hopeful to return to our campuses for in-person instruction, our principals and teacher leaders have also been planning for distance learning. Here is what two core committees have been working on:

### **Social Emotional Learning (SEL) Committee**

- Remain rooted in our faith as we draw on our Lord for strength in nurturing each child spiritually and emotionally as well as academically
- Professional development for teachers in August, and throughout the year, in best practices to intentionally build community, strengthen connections and support the emotional needs of our students.
- Support adult SEL needs of teachers and parents



## Academic Excellence Committee

- Home/school communication structures
- Standards/curricular priorities/instructional minutes for all grade levels
- Outline clear expectations for students, teachers and families
- Overview of instructional tools, learning activities and strategies that will be leveraged to remotely support students' ongoing growth and development
- [Loyola Marymount University's IDEAL Institute](#) Professional Development
  - Teachers will participate in at least 10 Blended Learning workshops focused on best practices for online teaching and highlight strong classroom pedagogy for distance learning.
  - Two dedicated coaches will support Lumen Christi Academies' educators.
  - Best practices shared to support student learning and development through online synchronous (daily/live interaction) and asynchronous (recorded/independent practice) offline instructional practices.

This weekend, our principals and leadership team will review the COVID-19 and Reopening In-Person Learning Framework for K-12 Schools in California which was just released following Governor Newsom's announcement this afternoon. I will also be meeting with the Diocesan Human Resources Director, Chief Financial Officer and the Department of Catholic Schools Team, to evaluate financial implications of this possible shift to distance learning to begin the year.

This situation is fluid and consistent communication is critical as we continue monitoring updates from our county and state health officials. This morning, our principals agreed to send weekly Lumen Christi Academies communications each Friday to update students, staff and families on new developments to our distance learning plans. This united update will be in addition to whatever communication each school is already making. Next Friday's message will be emailed to all staff and families and available online at [www.lumenchristiacademies.org](http://www.lumenchristiacademies.org). It will also include our first iteration of the FAQ document based on the questions received at [info@lumenchristiacademies.org](mailto:info@lumenchristiacademies.org).

Thank you for your continued support and partnership as we prepare to do great things together in Christ, who strengthens us. Take care, stay healthy and be well.

Peace and God Bless,

Rodney Pierre-Antoine  
Executive Director, Lumen Christi Academies