



**DIOCESE OF OWENSBORO**  
Catholic Schools Office

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Parents and Families,

As you are all now aware, the Diocese of Owensboro has made the commitment to return our students back to school, in person, five days a week. I want to truly thank Bishop William Medley and the other Bishops in the Catholic Conference of Kentucky for taking a huge leap of faith and moving forward with the recommendations of their superintendents and administration to return to school. This was not an easy decision and one that was thoughtfully and spiritually thought out from all angles. We are all truly blessed to witness such great leadership in a time that we so desperately need it.

In the next few weeks, we will enter into a whole new era of what the school day will look like for our parents, students, and faculty. There will be new procedures and guidelines that we have never been faced with before. Each one of our schools has worked tirelessly since the end of the last school year to create a safe environment for our students, faculty, and staff. The problem still very evident is the “uncertainty” of this virus and the new information that is learned about it each and every day. As a community, we all have to be flexible and willing to adapt to changes as we work through the school year. With all that being said, there are two major components of this pandemic we are going to have to accept to ensure our schools can open soon and remain open.

First, we as a Catholic school community have to accept that fact that we are going to encounter cases of COVID-19. This is an inevitable fact we all have to come to terms with. The positive part of this is the diocese and our local schools are in constant contact with our local health departments and are ready to deal with situations as they arise. Our goal is the same as it would be for any sick child or employee. We want them follow the proper procedures, get well, and return to school as soon as it is safe to do so.

Secondly, we need every single person in our Catholic school community to be committed to making this work. We can create the greatest plans in the world, but if we don't have the complete honest buy-in from our community, those daily school procedures and guidelines won't matter much. We need students and parents to make responsible choices outside of school hours to keep us from being forced to an NTI situation. We are “all” going to have to make sacrifices in order for this to happen. During my media interviews yesterday, I emphatically informed them that our parents were 100 percent invested in making this work. Please help me keep my word.

Finally, we are asking our families to be patient with our principals, faculty, and staff as we continually work together for the best possible return to school for our students and families. We are committed to this and we will all get through this together!

God Bless,

David Kessler  
Superintendent of Catholic Schools