

Dear Families,

We pray that you and your families are healthy and safe.

We would like to say that we are beginning to prepare for the new school year, but the fact of the matter is that we never stopped preparing for the new school year since COVID-19 was declared a public health crisis last winter.

The MTCES Board impaneled a committee months ago to prepare for a safe reopening of our school. We want our building to be safe for teachers, students, visitors and our entire community.

We are focused on providing a high quality, Catholic education for our students in a classroom setting.

The committee is headed by Tim Driscoll, a long-time parent, volunteer and leader. His institutional knowledge and familiarity with our school is unmatched. We intentionally kept the original committee small to be nimble in an environment with constantly changing guidance coming from multiple sources at the local, state and archdiocesan levels. We have since expanded the committee membership to include more teachers as we approach the beginning of school.

Some families have reached out to express interest in a virtual option. We are considering all possibilities and have been evaluating virtual classroom products chosen by other Archdiocesan schools. Although nothing will compare to the quality of in-school instruction, we understand the unique circumstances of our time and wish to be able to offer a temporary alternative to concerned families. Furthermore, it is important to understand that although you may not have received a personal response from us when you emailed, we are considering your thoughts, concerns and suggestions.

This year will be a year to remember. Our plan has been a long time coming, but it is important to note that it has changed much as new guidance comes in. It is safe to say that we will continue to be nimble even after the beginning of school. We acknowledge now that guidance will change and continue to come in throughout the school year, so the measures we take on day 1 may be different from the measures we take on day 100.

You made the decision to entrust the health, safety, education, and development of your child to Mother Teresa Catholic Elementary School during the most important, formative years of their lives. And your children will likely spend more time at MTCES than any other school in their lives. We are committed to making certain that we never lose sight of our commitment to our rigorous curriculum and dedication to our Christian faith.

Please read through the plan that is attached. We will continue to consider your continuing suggestions and concerns now and throughout the school year.

Finally, it is important to acknowledge the incredible teachers and staff that we have at MTCES. Every member of our faculty and staff is remarkable. Even under undesirable circumstances and incredible pressure, they have risen to their calling to provide a challenging education and a caring environment.

God bless you and your families as we prepare for our new school year.

Thank you.

Aideen Briggs
MTCES Principal

Michael McNamara
Chair, Board of Directors