



# Diocese of Springfield

Office of the Bishop

August 14, 2020

Dear Diocese of Springfield Catholic School Families,

Since the very beginning of this summer, Dr. Daniel Baillargeon and the leaders of our Catholic school communities have been working diligently to formulate the safe reopening plan of our schools in the coming weeks. As partners in the formation of your children in our schools, we take our responsibility to ensure safe, academically enriching, and spiritually nourishing communities very seriously.

We know at this time, due to COVID-19, that safety has become the priority. Our dedicated Catholic educators have been working to ensure that our schools are safe, and at the same time equally as excellent as they have been in providing an education for your children. Balancing these has been challenging, and you can understand the weight of the decisions that have had to be made.

As you may have seen in the communications regarding Catholic schools, we know there are some risks in bringing our students, teachers, and staff back to our schools. We know that even in following the strictest of adherence to sanitization and disinfecting protocols, there could be exposure to COVID-19. This risk truthfully exists everywhere.

In the end, when weighing the risk versus the benefits of opening our schools for full in-person instruction, it was felt that the benefits outweigh the risk. Some families, however, may understandably still not be comfortable sending their children to our schools for in person instruction and that is why we also are providing a remote option through each of our Catholic schools.

We will be doing everything we can in our schools to ensure that all COVID-19 related protocols will be followed. It is important to remember that each of our schools is a community, and we can ensure that we are doing our part to keep our schools and your children safe. We ask you to do your part as well. Your cooperation in adhering to the protocols your school has developed, based on federal and public health guidelines, is an important part of ensuring that our schools are as safe as possible. We have a shared responsibility for one another's well-being, and doing everything we can together to limit the spread of the virus, will make our communities stronger.

While some of our local districts have postponed in-person public education for the beginning of the school year, our schools are much different than the public schools. In each of our schools, we have the facilities that accommodate all of the safety measures and provide enough space for each of our students to properly social distance. The planned protocols we have in place for each of our schools meets or exceeds the recommendations provided to us.

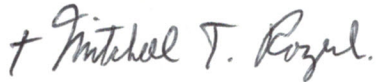
The Catholic Schools Office will continue to remain fully informed about the reopening plans and continue to monitor and assess the changing nature of this terrible virus. We

are prepared to shift to a fully remote instructional model if, at any point, the risk warrants this change.

Finally, I ask you to please keep the members of our school administration teams, the teachers, students, and all families in your daily prayers as we cautiously but optimistically begin a new school year.

May God bless you and all of us as we prepare to welcome our students back into our schools, sharing with them the joy that comes from being united in community.

In Christ,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Mitchell T. Rozanski".

Most Reverend Mitchell T. Rozanski  
Apostolic Administrator