



July 16, 2020

Dear CtRCS Families,

As we look toward the start of school next month, we continue to develop policies and procedures to successfully and safely begin the 2020-21 academic year. In this ever-evolving situation, we remain united with our families and committed to our purpose of providing an exceptional Catholic education that inspires our students to become leaders proclaiming the Gospel in word and action.

In our last communication, we asked families to complete a survey regarding our return to school. We're grateful to all who responded. Your feedback, concerns, ideas, and general input are essential to ensure we can reopen CtRCS in a way that mitigates risk, provides continued excellence in education, and meets the needs of our families.

We have also developed several planning committees. These were formed based on areas of concern from our families and in keeping with developing best practices grounded in the guidance from state, local, and diocesan officials. Each of the committees has a specific focus area, such as arrival procedures, cleaning and sanitation, and curriculum for on-campus and remote instruction. Committee members consist of administration, faculty, parents, and community members; many with broad expertise in public health and the medical fields.

With that being said, after reviewing your feedback as well as the recommendations of our committees, **our plan to reopen Aug. 19 has not changed.** However, it is important to note we remain beholden to local government mandates and our plans may need to change depending on the state of the pandemic. When we do reopen, there are two options for families:

1. **On-campus instruction:** Students can return to the campus where we will implement new health and safety procedures. Per CDC guidelines that individuals ages 10 and up should wear masks, students in fourth grade and up will be asked to do so.
2. **Remote instruction:** Students can learn from home using our newly developed Virtual Crusader Classroom (VCC).

On Thursday, July 23, you will receive a complete plan detailing the reopening of CtRCS including answers to important questions we have heard from the CtRCS community. **You will then be asked to complete a simple form to indicate which learning environment you will choose for your child(ren).** We would ask you to return that form to us within a week. As you consider your decision, it is important to note that your selection will be for the entire first nine weeks of the school year. After the first nine weeks of school, you will have the opportunity to switch environments depending on the current reality of the pandemic.



It is our hope to provide you with all the necessary information you need to make a decision. Our VCC will be vastly different from the Distance Learning Program implemented last spring. The VCC will include more real-time engagement with the teacher and classmates. Classes will be accessed in real-time, or synchronously, along with their on-campus peers.

If you have any questions prior to the release of our 2020-21 opening plans next week, please do not hesitate to reach out to us directly. Finally, and most importantly, on behalf of the administrative team, and our faculty and staff, we thank you for your patience and support as we work together through these difficult times. It will undoubtedly be a “different” type of school year, but we are committed to making it a great year nonetheless for our students and families. We’re excited to get started, and together we will remain Crusader Strong.

Sincerely,

Mr. Daniel J. Courtney
Principal

Rev. Sean P. Horrigan
Pastor