



**DIOCESE OF
SAN JOSE**

Department of Catholic Schools
Office of the Superintendent

August 9, 2021

Dear Catholic School Families,

I pray this finds you well. Over the past several days, we have had the blessing of virtually uniting principals and teachers from our Catholic schools across the Diocese in preparation for the new school year. Their joy for the ministry, dedication to learning, and support for one another have been a great witness to the excitement and hope for the new year. Together, we are committed to embracing each child and family within a safe, supportive community of faith.

As we prepare to welcome your children for the first day of school, I would like to update you on the most recent [State guidelines](#) for TK-12 schools provided by the California Department of Public Health (CDPH). In alignment with our local health officials as well as the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP), the 2021-2022 guidelines prioritize a safe return to in-person instruction for all students.

To support the safe return of all students to our campuses, each school is developing and implementing a multi-layered mitigation strategy, including State-required indoor masking for all adults and students. Numerous scientific studies throughout the past year have demonstrated that this multi-layered approach supports the safety of our children, families, and educators. Your principal will be sharing the school-specific protocols and procedures of the mitigation strategy for your location. We will continue to monitor our State's guidance and keep you updated on any changes impacting our schools throughout the year.

The past 18 months have been challenging in many ways for everyone. We want to express our deepest gratitude for your continued support, partnership, and trust in our schools. Despite the many challenges, the past year has truly been marked by solidarity and hope. United with one another, our school communities have come together to redesign faith, socio-emotional, and educational opportunities to deepen the support of every child and continually strengthen the ministry of Catholic education.

We look forward to continuing our journey with you this year. May God's loving embrace bless you and your family.

Yours in Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jennifer A. Beltramo".

Jennifer Beltramo
Superintendent of Catholic Schools