



August 12, 2020

Greetings from the Principal,

Wow to say these past few days have been busy is an understatement. However, we are gearing up for opening our doors on Monday, August 17th. We have a re-entry plan and it is a good plan, it's approved by the Boyd County Health Department and the Diocese of Lexington. But a plan is only as good as the people who follow it.

I am asking for your help to make our plan as full proof as possible. Please Do Not send your child to school if they are not feeling well or did not feel well the night before. **They also have to be temperature free WITHOUT fever reducing medication for 24 hours.** We will be taking temperatures by your car before they are allowed to go to their classroom. Be diligent about facial coverings and hand washing because we surely will be. We all need to watch out for each other and stay strong and stay diligent.

I want to help assure our families a safe environment and quality education therefore I am putting a cap on the number of students in a classroom. The maximum per room is 15 students and above that a waiting list will be started. That number allows for physical distancing according to COVID protocols and our plan. There would then be the possibility of adding classes and teachers should numbers dictate that. I will not take families who only plan to stay a few weeks or a couple of months.

I also know that some families may still feel uncomfortable with in-person classes right now. We will work with you but you may need to give us a little time. I know we can do NTI packets like we did before and I am working on the technology piece. I can't promise a live stream classroom experience but am willing to work with you to the best of our capabilities.

I urge you to read over our plan on the website, holyfamilyashland.weebly.com and don't hesitate if you have questions or concerns to email me at akempf@cdlex.org.

Please read the attached letters from Superintendent of Lexington, Tom Brown and Mr. John Simms, Chairman of the Diocesan School Council.

I will send another Parent Letter on Friday about how we can successfully follow our plan come Monday morning!

Please Pray Strong, Irish Strong

Mrs. Kempf

August 12, 2020

Dear School Leaders:

Thank you for your prayers and messages of support. They are most welcome during these difficult days.

After consulting with Bishop Stowe – who also spoke with the other Bishops in the Commonwealth of Kentucky – and with you, and after hearing from so many parents, we have decided that we will stay on course for the 2020-2021 school year and begin opening our schools for in-person instruction next week. I know schools have developed a variety of models for beginning the school year and have communicated with families about these details.

The *Catechism of the Catholic Church* says, “The human body shares in the dignity of ‘the image of God’” (364). “Life and physical health are precious gifts entrusted to us by God. We must take reasonable care of them, taking into account the needs of others and the common good” (2288). We are all concerned about this COVID-19 pandemic and share a commitment to the common good. There are many “goods” to balance as we make this decision.

We considered many factors in making this decision.

- Your hard work and planning over the last several months in creating a safe space for students to learn and thrive. I have been so impressed your creativity and care, and I heard from hundreds of parents who said: “Our schools are ready. We are confident. Please proceed with in-person instructions.”
- Our concern for the welfare of our students and their spiritual, social, emotional, and academic progress. I also am mindful of the challenges parents face as they strive to balance family life, work, and the need to support their families with the needs of children who are trying to participate in non-traditional instruction.
- The continuous conversations we have had with the County Public Health Departments and the support and resources the staff there have provided us.
- We will continue to monitor the situation and make adjustments, either system-side or at individual schools, as needed. In addition, during the week of September 6, all four Dioceses of the Commonwealth will conduct an evaluation of our experience to date and will make any needed changes.

As we move forward, I want to thank our parents for your support of your schools. We will rely on the careful attention to our “Healthy at School” guidance by parents, teachers, and administrators, and I encourage parents to focus on the important principles outlined in the School Re-entry Plans: mask wearing, hygiene, social distancing, health checks, staying home if sick. We know we can count on everyone’s support and compliance as we gather again for another year of Catholic school education.

Please know of my prayers for you, your faculty and staff, and most of all your families. Thank you for your deep commitment to the ministry of Catholic education.

Sincerely,

Thomas O. Brown

Superintendent of Schools

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August 12, 2020

To the students, parents and parishioners of the Diocese of Lexington:

As the Chairman of the Diocesan School Council, I would like to express my support for Bishop John and Tom Brown, and the other school personnel, who have made the decision that our children will attend school, in-person, starting next week. In these unprecedented times, hard decisions have to be made. The Diocese and each school has prepared, consulted with multiple sources from a variety of backgrounds, and come up with plans to keep our children, faculty and staff safe. With any plan such as this, there needs to be patience and flexibility. I encourage any student, faculty or staff that does not feel comfortable returning to school to work with their administration to come up with a resolution. I would also encourage each individual to review the policies of their particular school thoroughly. We must understand that this may not be a perfect solution, but we must also do what we think is best for our children, staff and schools. A Catholic education is different than a public education on many levels. Because of our differences, we are sometimes able to make decisions specific to our community and situation. Please continue to pray for everyone making this decision, and most importantly, for the students, faculty and staff.

Thank you,

John M. Simms