

THE ROMAN CATHOLIC  
ARCHDIOCESE OF ATLANTA



OFFICE OF CATHOLIC SCHOOLS

May 7, 2021

Dear Parents of Our Archdiocesan Schools,

One of the hallmarks of Catholic education is the community that is created within the walls of each school building. Fostered by the Gospel spirit of freedom and love, and in partnership with parents, our schools work together in developing a profound sense of community in students. They do this out of the conviction that learning in a fully engaged and vibrant school community is fundamental to preparing students to lead successful, rewarding lives as contributing members of society and to bring into the world a living and active faith.

Sadly, one of the more unfortunate results of the pandemic has been its impact on efforts to build community. In almost every dimension of education, having some students online and others in-person has caused an understandable but nonetheless significant impairment to each school's ability to foster community and reap the full harvest of its benefits. It is therefore out of this passionate commitment to in-person instruction and its many academic, emotional, social, and spiritual benefits that we plan to open our schools to full in-person instruction for the 2021-2022 school year.

Parental requests for exemption to in-person instruction will need to be submitted to the school for review and will need to include written documentation from a physician stating the reason(s) why in-person instruction is not advised. The school will review this information and meet with parents to discuss the matter prior to the beginning of the 2021-2022 school year. This applies to all students, both current and new admissions to the school. Students receiving medical exemptions from in-person instruction may not be permitted to participate in school-sponsored extracurricular activities and/or sports including high school and archdiocesan high school feeder teams.

Our schools will continue to monitor COVID-19 data throughout the ensuing months while diligently maintaining our highly successful protocols to ensure the health and safety of all. With the help of God's grace and continued parental support, our Catholic schools are prepared to meet future challenges with the same level of common sense, creativity, and academic acumen that characterizes all their efforts on behalf of the learning communities they serve. Please keep all those who serve in our Catholic schools in your prayers.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Hal Plummer".

Hal Plummer  
Superintendent of Schools