



THE CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF MEMPHIS

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July 19, 2021

Dear Parents and Students,

On behalf of the principals, teachers, and staff members of the Catholic Schools in the Diocese of Memphis, we are looking forward to welcoming your child back to school for the 2021-22 school year. We remain committed to the spiritual, academic, and social-emotional formation of your child; and to providing a safe and loving environment for all our students.

Recently I met with our principals and we discussed the issue of face coverings for the upcoming school year. Together we came to a consensus that face coverings for all students, teachers, and staff at our Catholic schools would be optional. This includes during the school day as well as at all other school related events.

We encourage all to return to the practices that were once restricted, especially attending Mass, and receiving the sacraments. We also encourage an eye towards public health and safety with tolerance and respect for all who continue to wear face coverings. Our schools have learned much from this pandemic including that hand sanitizing, social distancing, and vigilance are effective tools against many forms of illness. We will continue to stress these measures in all of our schools. Please realize that it may be necessary to make changes to any and all policies concerning Covid-19 in the future.

I am delighted to be your new superintendent and look forward to meeting all of you in person soon. Have a great summer and God bless all of you and our 15 Catholic schools.

Mr. Pierre N. Antoine

Superintendent of Catholic Schools
Diocese of Memphis, Tennessee

cc: Most Reverend Bishop David P. Talley, M.S.W., J.C.D.
Very Reverend Keith Stewart, Vicar General
Pastors
Dr. Colleen Butterick, Director of School Counseling Services
Sandra Goldstein, Director, Office of Human Resources
Rick Ouellette, Director, Office of Communications
Margaret Scott, Executive Assistant, Office of the Bishop