



**Department of
Catholic Education**

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July 30, 2021

Dear Families, Faculty, and Staff of our Catholic Schools,

As you are aware, we have been working around the clock trying to ensure that we begin this upcoming school year in as safe a manner as possible while also complying with all of the laws of the State of Florida. As you know from my previous letter, we were going to mandate masks at our schools only because of the very high positivity rate that is happening within the counties of our diocese.

Today at 3:45 p.m., our governor signed an Executive Order (21-175) *Ensuring the Parents' Freedom to Choose – Masks in Schools*, which gives some clear guidance to schools about students and masks. After careful review of the Executive Order and consultation with our advisors, the bishop has approved the following update to our policies for the schools of the Diocese of St. Augustine.

- As per my June letter, we will continue to have masks optional across our schools, but they are highly recommended during this high COVID positivity rate.
- All visitors will be required to wear masks at this time.
 - We will be limiting the number of visitors to the campuses.
- COVID-19 vaccinations remain optional but are highly encouraged.
- All positive cases at a school will continue to be reported to the Office of the Superintendent for follow-up with the Florida Department of Health.
- Families will still be notified of every positive case at a school.

As I said in my most recent letter, let us continue to pray for one another and for the end of this pandemic.

God bless you and your families,



Deacon Scott J. Conway
Superintendent of Catholic Schools



Rhonda Rose
Assistant Superintendent of Catholic Schools