

July 23, 2020

Dear Parents, Guardians, and Students,

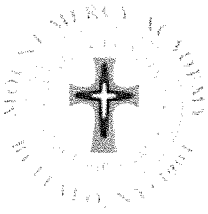
We hope that you are taking the time to relax and enjoy the warmth and sunshine that we have been experiencing this summer.

We are all awaiting the official announcement from Governor Cuomo regarding reopening of schools the second week in August. Mount Mercy is continuing to work diligently on planning our reopening. The administrators, licensed medical professionals, faculty and staff members on the "Preparation Committee", as well as the members of the subcommittees, have been meeting regularly to ensure that the Mount Mercy community returns to an environment that provides a safe, nurturing, and academically challenging environment. The abundant space at Mount Mercy is being studied and organized to creatively and safely distance our students.

Since our last letter we have received the mandates from New York State on the requirements necessary for reopening. Our official plan will be submitted to the state by the required July 31, 2020 deadline.

Mount Mercy is establishing policies concerning academics, physical health as well as mental health, supplies, technology, and transportation that will protect the health and safety of its students and staff. The committees are aligning their plans to meet and exceed the directives from Governor Cuomo, the New York State Education Department as well as the Diocese of Buffalo. It is still our goal, if it is safe and permitted, to reopen the school as scheduled. As per New York State guidelines, we also will have contingency plans in place for a hybrid combination learning model as well as distance learning. The committees are determined to have a safe and meaningful learning environment for our students and personnel. Again, we emphasize that our goal is to reopen as consistently as we have in other years with new safety precautions in place.






In addition, The New York State CHSAA (NYSCHSAA) met on July 20, 2020 and decided to postpone the start of Fall Sports to at least September 21, 2020 due to the effects of the Covid-19 pandemic and our concerns for the safety of Catholic High School student athletes. Should conditions cause the Fall season to be further postponed or canceled, the NYSCHSAA is prepared to hold three condensed athletic seasons for the 2020-2021 school year when conditions permit. Please note that decisions regarding the 2020-2021 sports season will be based upon the mandates and instruction of the Governor of New York, the New York Department of Education and Health, as well as the educational leadership of the Archdiocese of New York, the Diocese of Brooklyn, the Diocese of Buffalo, and the Diocese of Rockville Centre.

Please continue to check your emails for updates about the process of beginning the 2020-21 school year. Our detailed plan will be available for your review. In addition we are putting together a basic “What I need to know” description outline for you . Where does she go, when does she go, what will she be doing. We assure you that we will be ready for our new school year. As always, please contact the school with any questions or concerns.

Margaret M. (Peggy) Cronin

  
President

Michele Melligan

  
Principal

