



DIOCESE OF BAKER

PASTORAL OFFICE
641 SW Umatilla Ave. • Redmond, Oregon 97756
Phone (541) 388-4004 • Fax (541) 388-2566
www.dioceseofbaker.org

9/2/20

Welcome Back to School!

I hope all of you and our children have enjoyed a healthy and safe summer. We are excited to start the new school year and as we have already communicated, our goal is to have all students back in our schools attending school in person for this entire school year! We have spent the summer developing detailed operating plans that are specific to each of our 4 school sites. Our number one goal is to keep all of our students, staff, parents and parish members safe. Each of our schools detailed operating plans are posted on their school's website.

We find ourselves in a fluid situation, since operating schools will be contingent upon maintaining a COVID free environment, with the ability to quickly contact trace in the event of an outbreak of COVID-19 in any of our student cohorts. We will be spending much more time and effort in cleaning our buildings and classrooms throughout the day. School routines have been altered in order to maintain social distancing, wear masks, use shields, keep students in discrete cohorts and screen students before they enter our schools every day. Any person who exhibits any symptoms of this disease will be immediately isolated in order to help contain any possible spread of this disease.

We know that our kids need to be with their peers and experience in person education in order to continue to grow socially, emotionally and academically. We also know that most parents need to work and that having their children in a safe and nurturing place, allows parents not to have to worry about trying to watch their children while attempting to work.

I would also like to acknowledge that COVID-19 is truly a cruel disease, in that it kills some people while some people don't even get sick while they spread the virus unknowingly. This disease disproportionately affects older people, the poor and people of color. While at the same time, our children don't get sick at all or generally suffer only mild symptoms from it.

As we navigate this ever changing COVID-19 pandemic, we promise to work tirelessly to serve your children and give them both the religious education and rigorous academic education you have come to expect from the Diocese of Baker Catholic Schools. May the Lord guide us and keep us through these troubled times.