



ARCHDIOCESE OF MIAMI
Office of the Archbishop

August 5, 2020

Dear Principal:

We are following up on our school reopening announcement from last week. As we noted in our July 31st letter, many of our schools have Pre-Kindergarten programs. Even though Miami-Dade and Broward counties remain in Phase 1, with fewer children in the Pre-K programs and because of their age, we are better able to safely manage the instructional environment within the CDC and Early Learning Coalition guidelines. Accordingly, parishes and schools may open Pre-K programs, on a parent-voluntary basis, with in-classroom instruction on August 19th.

Our goal is to reopen all our K-12 classrooms as soon as possible and in a safe manner. In the interim, compensation for faculty and staff and most other expenses will still need to be paid and, while livestreamed, instruction will in fact take place. Therefore, there is no provision for tuition reduction. However, for services that will not be offered, such as cafeteria services and after school care, a credit will be given where payment has already been made.

We will continue to monitor the COVID-19 statistics and the implications on the safe re-opening of our schools and communicate with you as information becomes available. Our hope and prayers are that our experience with the Pre-K programs will allow for a phased reopening of other grades as well.

We have received many responses to our July 31st school reopening announcement. Some have been very supportive and appreciative that we have decided to initially open only in a virtual format for grades K to 12. However, many other responses have been critical of that decision and have requested that all schools and grades be opened for in-school instruction, with a virtual option. At this time, it is not possible to open all grades for classes on the school campus. Resources have been invested into software and technology, along with teacher training, to provide a fully coordinated, virtual classroom for students in grades K-12. Even when it becomes possible to bring additional grades onto the school campus, parents will have the option of virtual education.

This does present unique challenges to the faculty and staff of the schools as well as to all parents. We are grateful for all that the schools are doing and appreciate the patience and support of the parents as we work to provide Catholic education for our children within the context of this continued crisis.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Most Reverend Thomas G. Wenski
Archbishop of Miami

Kim Pryzbylski, PhD
Archdiocesan Superintendent of Schools

cc: Pastor