



June 1, 2021

Dear School Administrators, Faculty, Staff, Students, and Parents,

Welcome to June – WE DID IT! As we close out the 2020-2021 academic year this week it is impossible not to reflect on this past school year.

You – the school employees, students, and parents deserve the credit for following through on the plans that were put in place making it possible for our schools to be in-person for this school year and in many cases offering virtual instruction concurrently. We were able to provide an exceptional education to all of our students and for that I am grateful!

There have been a lot of positive changes in the last few weeks as COVID-19 cases are declining, and vaccine rates are increasing. I am very hopeful that things will continue to improve over the summer and that soon Executive Orders regarding COVID-19 will not be necessary.

In the weeks and months ahead before we return to school for the 2021-2022 academic year, we will continue to monitor all CDC and VDH guidance and the Executive Orders in place. Currently Executive Order 79 states that - *All students, teachers, staff, and visitors must wear a mask over their nose and mouth while on (public and private) school property.* Because of this, at this time, we are unable to make any decision or statement on the wearing of masks for the next school year. As additional information is released, we will carefully review the verbiage and consult with our Reopening Our Schools Task Force Team and Diocesan leadership to make the best decisions possible. Those decisions will be shared out to all as soon as they are made. We used this approach to make our plans for this year and we were successful.

Thank you for supporting your individual schools and for believing in Catholic education in the Diocese of Richmond. Our priority is to provide a faith based, exceptional education in the best environment possible. Wishing you all a blessed and healthy summer!

Yours in Christ,

*Kelly M. Lazzara*

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Superintendent of Schools

