



October 27, 2020

Dear Principals, Faculty, Staff, Parent, and Students,

We did it! We have successfully completed the first quarter of the 2020-2021 academic year. It has not been easy but your commitment to adhering to your school's health mitigation plans has made it possible for us to keep our classrooms open to in-person instruction five days a week!

We are wearing masks, distancing, sanitizing, and taking temperatures daily, but we are also learning, having fun, and growing in our faith each and every day. We have carefully navigated this sea of uncertainty and we are continuing to take the waves as they come. Our schools are doing very well and that is because of your efforts and your dedication to the health and well-being of our employees, students, and families.

Each day when I walk into the Pastoral Center, I stop at our temperature scanner and thankfully hear the words – "temperature normal". I've come to appreciate this daily affirmation that something in my life is "normal". We all want more than anything to fully return to a pre-COVID sense of normal, but as we are entering the cold and flu season it is now more important than ever that we continue to follow the plans that have worked well for us thus far.

I have heard time and again from local health departments that our school environments are doing a great job of minimizing the spread within our schools. I ask that you continue to follow all the protocols in place at school, but also to be mindful of your exposure outside of our school environment. The fatigue of dealing with COVID is real. I ask that you please remain steadfast in not rushing back to normal by hosting gatherings or participating in large gatherings, especially without the same protocols in place that we implement in our schools; doing so increases the risks at our schools. The holidays are right around the corner, and while Virginia does not currently have any travel restrictions or requirements to quarantine after traveling, I ask that you please be mindful of the increase of risk associated with traveling to some areas. If you do travel, please be sure to closely monitor yourselves for any symptoms of COVID, err on the side of caution, and not attend school with any symptoms that could put others at risk.

I continue to pray each day for the health and well-being of all those in our schools, their families, and our entire community. Thank you for all you have done to keep all those that attend our schools safe during the first quarter and will continue to do throughout the second quarter and beyond.

Yours in Christ,

*Kelly Lazzara*  
Superintendent of Schools