



October 28, 2021

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

I hope this letter finds you well. We have successfully completed another 9 weeks of school during this pandemic. In March 2020 I never imagined we would still be talking about COVID-19 in late 2021.

November is quickly approaching, and we are entering a time of thanksgiving. I am very thankful that our schools continue to remain open to in-person instruction to provide a quality Catholic education while also focusing on the social, emotional, and spiritual well-being of not only our students but also our employees and even parents.

In some ways this school year has seemed more stressful than last year, mainly because of the length of time COVID-19 has been a part of our lives. Despite that, our school employees and students continue to go above and beyond every day. In recognition of our school employees and students' efforts we will be extending the Thanksgiving break to include November 22-26, 2021. While I understand these additional two days may be an inconvenience for some parents, these days will exponentially give our students, teachers, and staff some much needed additional time to refresh and renew their mind and spirit.

The professionalism of our school administrators, teachers, and staff members has them working harder in ways that parents and students don't even recognize because they are just doing it seamlessly. They are teaching additional classes, working through their planning periods and lunch breaks to cover for each other when substitutes aren't available, they are driving buses, and taking on additional responsibilities to oversee and implement the protocols needed to maintain the safest environment possible for all. They do these things because they have a passion for their profession and their dedication to their students. We are blessed to have such superstars in our schools!

I continue to pray each day for the health and well-being of all those in our schools, their families, and our entire community. I am grateful for your continued support of your individual schools and for Catholic education as a whole in the Diocese of Richmond. 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 for the remainder of this school year and beyond.

Yours in Christ,

*Kelly Lazzara*

Superintendent of Catholic Schools