



# ARCHDIOCESE OF MIAMI

*Office of the Archbishop*

July 31, 2020

Dear Principal:

As previously announced, the Archdiocesan Catholic Schools will begin the 2020-2021 school year on August 19<sup>th</sup>. However, because of the high positivity rate of COVID-19 in our communities, we will begin the year only with virtual classes for grades K-12 at least until September 18<sup>th</sup>. By that time, we will reassess the situation to determine when we can resume instruction with children present in the classroom. And, even when “in classroom” instruction resumes with social distancing, facial masks and frequent handwashing, the virtual format will continue to be available to those who might prefer or require it.

The decision to begin the 2020-2021 school year with only livestreamed classes or online instruction for grades K-12 was arrived at after considerable consultation with the Florida Department of Education, the Florida Catholic Conference, local health officials and “feedback” solicited from parents themselves.

While “virtual learning” is not ideal, our Catholic school principals and teachers have received added professional development including training and guidance on virtual teaching “best practices” to enhance student learning in this format. This ongoing professional development seeks to insure both student and teacher success with virtual education. At the same time, in coming weeks, we will keep parents updated with timely communications as well as sharing with them some “best practices” they themselves can adopt to enhance their child’s learning experience.

Many of our schools have Pre-K programs which because of the age of the children involved make virtual instruction very difficult. We are examining protocols from both the CDC and the Early Learning Coalition and we hope to announce in the next week when on site Pre-K classes will resume.

We continue to pray for all those affected by this pandemic, especially those who have been infected with COVID-19. Despite the challenges posed by the pandemic, we remain committed to the mission of Catholic education and to the families we serve.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Most Reverend Thomas G. Wenski  
Archbishop of Miami

Kim Pryzbylski, PhD  
Archdiocesan Superintendent of Schools

cc: Pastor