

Catholic Pastoral Center

August 31, 2020

Dear Families,

On behalf of all the principals and those of us on the diocesan pastoral staff, I welcome you back to the classrooms for this epic school year! Never before have we crossed the threshold of our buildings with this level of unknown. I am reminded of a favorite proverb these days, “Remember the Lord in everything you do and He will show you the right way (Proverbs 3:6).” Perhaps this could be our mantra as we struggle to know exactly which way is the “right” way. We go forward now with faith in the God who will guide us through the hills and valleys that lie ahead.

I ask a few things of you as you begin the 2020-2021 academic year.

- Be positive! There are many things to look glum about these days, but our students need joy. Even amidst the anxiousness you may feel, choose to be hopeful about the year ahead and present that picture to your children.
- Be open. When you have concerns, address them. As school staffs, we are here to help! We are doing everything we can to keep your children safe and to continue to make learning meaningful. Thank you for partnering with us!
- Be gentle and understanding. These are stressful days for everyone—parents, students, and teachers alike. May we all be gentle and forgiving with each other, reminding ourselves often that each of us wants the very best for our children/students. Sometimes our way isn’t the only way.
- Be vigilant, but try to relax. The news can push our anxiety levels to the breaking point some days, but the reality of what we face today is that very few children get COVID. We need to choose wisely our sources of information and not let the hype make us believe what is untrue or unlikely. I suggest using the Center for Disease Control, the American Academy of Pediatrics, or the Minnesota Department of Health as guides. Our schools are safe places and we are doing everything we can to make this school year as normal as possible.
- Be faithful, not fearful. Remember that we have a God who walks with us and guides us. He will see us through anything we may face in the months ahead. Trust Him, not the media.

As we take the next steps, let us commit ourselves to fervent prayer—for each other, for our schools, for our Area Faith Communities, and for our new bishop. May we praise God for His abundant blessings and ask God for the courage we need to continue our mission to bring the Gospel to all the ends of the earth.

In Him,



Dr. Michelle Kramer
Director of Schools
Diocese of New Ulm

