



ARCHDIOCESE OF MIAMI

Office of the Superintendent of Schools

August 6, 2021

Dear Catholic School Parents and Guardians,

It is with great pleasure that I introduce myself to you as the new Secretary of Education and Superintendent of Schools for the Archdiocese of Miami. Having started my new role on July 6, 2021, I am sincerely getting to know the 61 Catholic schools of the Archdiocese. I have always worked in Catholic education, having served as a teacher, principal, and Superintendent in other dioceses. Our Catholic schools truly offer an education that is second-to-none. Not only have I witnessed the transformational value of our schools as an educator, but I am proud to have my own four children enrolled in Catholic schools of the Archdiocese.

I am sincerely grateful for your partnership and trust as a parent/guardian. It is our mission to provide your child with top-notch academic and spiritual formation. Thank you for the innumerable ways that you work with your school in support of your child's education.

As we enter the new academic year, our schools will undoubtedly be impacted by the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. In recent weeks, the Archdiocese of Miami has worked hard to develop our COVID protocols for schools. A summary of these protocols is included with this letter. As you can read, we continue to prioritize the safety and wellbeing of each of our students and employees. Given escalating infection rates and other indicators, it is vital that ongoing practices remain in place. At the same time, we are happy to ease some restrictions from last school year, particularly in light of vaccine eligibility.

In reading these protocols, it is important to remember that they represent our current approach based upon the state of the pandemic. As the pandemic continues to evolve, so too may our practices. We will inform you of any updates or changes to our COVID plan throughout the school year.

Please note that, as announced last spring, individual schools will no longer be providing long-term virtual learning for students. We believe that in-person learning is the optimal setting for the education of our students, and we have demonstrated that such learning can be accomplished safely. However, we recognize that some families are not yet ready to return for in-person learning. As such, families interested in long-term virtual learning are invited to do so through the Archdiocesan Virtual School (www.adomvirtual.com). Your current school will be ready to welcome you back once you decide to return for in-person learning. Individual schools will continue to provide direct learning supports for students impacted by COVID quarantines.

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Your own school will be communicating further regarding COVID protocols in the new year. In the meantime, know that my prayers are with you and your family. I look forward to a successful school year ahead!

Yours in Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jim Rigg". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "J" and a stylized "R".

Jim Rigg, Ph.D.
Secretary of Education
Superintendent of Catholic Schools
Archdiocese of Miami