

August 10, 2020

Dear Parents,

As you may have heard, Summit County Public Health (SCPH) released a recommendation this morning that Summit County K-12 schools begin the 2020-2021 school year in a remote learning environment as the preferred option for students. We have been in ongoing communication with SCPH and are aware of this recommendation, as well as the fact that not all schools are alike. Public school districts in Summit County face some challenges that our school community does not. We are also aware that there is no perfect option in this situation, and that all options available to us carry some risks, including the risk of illness associated with in-person learning, the risk of social-emotional challenges associated with learning from home, and others. It is important to note that all St. Hilary School families have already been offered a remote learning option in addition to the option for in-person instruction. Our synchronous learning plan offers students the ability to attend classes in person or online at the same time, as part of the same classroom, with the same curriculum, teacher and classmates, no matter which option is selected.

As a reminder, our learning options for the 2020-2021 school year are as follows:

**OPTION 1:** Traditional on-site, in-person learning experience in our classrooms five days per week, incorporating health and safety modifications in accordance with COVID-19 guidelines. Includes the ability to phase into and out of distance learning as needed based upon health conditions in our building and/or as mandated by state or local officials. You may switch from Option 1 (in-person learning) to Option 2 (distance learning) at any time with notification to [Mrs. Woodman](#) and [Mrs. Alexander](#).

**IMPORTANT! IF YOU PLAN TO HAVE YOUR CHILD ATTEND SCHOOL IN PERSON AT ANY TIME DURING THE 2020-2021 SCHOOL YEAR, YOU MUST COMPLETE AND RETURN THE [STUDENT COVID-19 POLICY ACKNOWLEDGMENT AND ASSUMPTION OF RISK FORM](#) PRIOR TO AUGUST 24. WE CANNOT ALLOW YOUR CHILD TO ENTER THE BUILDING WITHOUT THIS FORM BEING SUBMITTED PRIOR TO AUGUST 24.**

**OPTION 2:** Full-time distance learning for students who are unable to safely return in person, or are uncomfortable returning in person. This is not a virtual school option through another provider, or a home school option. This will occur simultaneously with in-person instruction in classrooms, and will simply be a live, virtual version of what is taking place in our classrooms each day. Your child will not lose his/her place as a student if your family chooses Option 2 (distance learning); however, if you choose Option 2 (distance learning), you may not switch back to Option 1 (in-person learning) until a new quarter starts in order to provide consistency for your child and our staff. We have been collaborating all summer to develop best-practices and have been engaged in professional development sessions with teachers. We are in the process of finalizing our distance learning guidelines and expectations and will be sharing these very soon. Keep in mind, our typical supports and services, including guidance counselors and intervention specialists, will still be available to students who are online.

**IMPORTANT! IF YOU PLAN TO HAVE YOUR CHILD BEGIN SCHOOL USING OUR DISTANCE LEARNING OPTION, YOU MUST NOTIFY [Mrs. Woodman](#) and [Mrs. Alexander](#) BY MONDAY, AUGUST 17.**

We believe, and the Diocese of Cleveland supports this belief, that all children are a precious gift from God, and all parents have the right to choose what is best for their children. We are committed to providing the safest possible face-to-face learning option for our students, along with the option for synchronous distance learning. However, we know that COVID-19 remains in control and is the driving force behind all decisions that must be made this school year. Our state and local leaders have already demonstrated their resolve in issuing policies to protect the health and safety of our community. It is possible, and we believe likely, that we may be ordered back into a distance learning situation at some point during this school year, either due to illness in our school community or conditions in the larger community. We will, of course, respect whatever mandate we are given. Therefore, as we have repeatedly said, it is vital that every family have contingency plans in place.

Our St. Hilary School COVID-19 Task Force will convene Wednesday evening to continue our ongoing planning for the 2020-2021 school year. Later this week, we will be communicating much more detailed information about our plan, distance learning, and responses to your questions. In the meantime, please know that my staff and I are grateful for your trust in us, and we have all of you in our prayers. Please pray for all of us as well, and for a safe and successful 2020-2021 school year.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Jennifer Woodman  
Principal