



SAINT MARY'S SCHOOL

June 25, 2020

Dear Parents and School Community:

As we look forward to the upcoming school year, our 75th Anniversary, I wanted to take this opportunity to share some of our plans as we prepare to greet our students. This will be the first in series of communications to keep you informed and up to date. But first, I would like to thank all of you for the warm and generous welcome as I move into my new position as principal. I have been truly blessed by the many expressions of good will and faith as well as the outpouring of prayers. I would like to also thank you for your patience and support of our school during these challenging times. We belong to a wonderful community for which I am grateful.

In order to create the safest possible environment for our students, faculty and staff as they return to school, we have been working very closely with the Archdiocese of Atlanta Special Task Force for a safe reopening. This group is made up of experts from the field of pediatric medicine and law, as well as parents and members of the Office of Catholic Schools. The task force is consulting regularly with the Center for Disease Control (CDC) and the state Department of Health so that the decisions they make are based on current data. In consultation with these groups, we have proactively taken the following steps:

- Formed a committee to create an entry plan that will best accommodate the needs of our school community while acting on CDC guidance
- Analyzed the data from the surveys on remote learning that were sent to all our stakeholders so that we can act on the valuable suggestions that have been made
- Reviewed cleaning protocols, facility layout, daily procedures, traffic flow and classroom considerations
- Ordered additional technology to continue refining and enhance instruction

Although a final decision has not been made, because our school building is spacious, we are optimistic that we will be able to maintain the social distancing necessary for a safe reopening in person. There will be additional updates from the Archdiocesan Special Task Force and from me as we finalize plans and new information becomes available.

I look forward to seeing all of you and greeting the students as we open our doors and begin an exciting new school year together!

Lovingly in Christ,

Jennifer Rittgers
Principal