



Office of the Superintendent

Diocese of Brownsville
Catholic Pastoral Center
700 N. Virgen de San Juan Blvd.
San Juan, TX 78589

October 7, 2020

Dear Parents,

Happy Feast Day of Our Lady of the Rosary!

I want to take this opportunity to thank those parents who allowed their child(ren) to come back to campus for in-person instruction. I know that it had to be a very difficult decision for all of you. I also want to respect those parents who made the decision to keep their child(ren) at home for remote learning, another difficult decision.

I am sure that both groups of parents prayed and discerned what was best for their child(ren) and families at this time.

We continue to hope for some relief over this COVID-19 pandemic and we ask God to bless all of our families, our neighbors and our entire world so that once again we may be able to enjoy our lives as we once did.

For now, we have to adjust to the “new normal” which is filling out the COVID-19 self-check list, staying 6 feet apart and wearing our masks while still sanitizing and disinfecting areas that surround us both at home and at school.

I want to remind you to look over your school’s re-opening plans periodically and become familiar of what is happening at your particular campus so that if and when your child returns you will know what is expected of you.

For those parents who have already sent their child(ren) back to our schools with in-person instruction, I ask that you be transparent when it comes to filling out the **COVID-19 self-check list** for your child(ren). It is very important to be up front with the principal and let them know if there is a concern regarding the questions. Please do not check a **no**, if you have a hesitation. I ask that you double check with the principal if you are not able to give a definite **yes** or **no** on the questionnaire.

An example would be: Has your child showed any signs of a cough? If so, maybe you might want to have a discussion with the principal if you have noticed something different. Maybe you heard your child cough during the night and that might be a sign that you should keep your child at home for the day to see what comes from it.

If your child or your family has been in close contact with someone who has the virus this would be another decision you would have to make regarding your child(ren) staying at home.

Remember our goal is to keep everyone at the school safe as best we can and for everyone to return home safely at the end of the day.

Please monitor your child(ren) for symptoms of COVID-19 on a daily basis. If your child develops any symptoms of COVID-19, even though it may not be COVID, stay at home, and contact your healthcare provider immediately.

Children may pass COVID-19 to older adults or people with underlying medical conditions that may result in severe illness and complications. The virus spreads person-to-person mainly through close contact with someone who is infected. Some people without symptoms may still be able to spread the virus. The best way to prevent illness is to avoid exposure to the virus. Again we remind you:

- Practice social distancing; stay at least six feet from other people
- Wash your hands often
- Review the importance of good handwashing with your child. Educational resources can be found here: <https://www.cdc.gov/handwashing/when-how-handwashing.html>.
- Routinely clean and disinfect frequently touched surfaces with EPA-approved products. **Review CDCs: *Cleaning Guidance***
- Cover your mouth and nose with a cloth face covering when around others. More information on cloth face masks can be found at **CDC: *Cloth Face Coverings***.
- We also recommend taking additional steps to protect your child's overall wellbeing during the COVID19 pandemic.

Children may worry about how COVID-19 may impact them, their family, and friends. Parents, in partnership with school counsellors can help children navigate this experience in an honest and accurate way to help minimize anxiety or fear.

Watch for signs of stress of behavior changes and help your child cope with stress. For additional resources to keep children healthy during stressful times, visit <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/daily-life-coping/children.html>. Please feel free to contact your school counsellor if you need them to reach out to you.

The CDC created recommendations to assist with these conversations: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/daily-life-coping/talking-with-children.html>.

Together we can work miracles and I ask that all of us continue to work together for the good and well-being of all our Catholic school families. We only want the best for you and your families and as we continue to pray for a better day tomorrow, let us remember that for us to get to tomorrow we have to live fully today.

Blessings,



Sr. Cynthia A. Mello, SSD
Superintendent of Catholic Schools