



CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF  
ARLINGTON

Office of Catholic Schools

200 North Glebe Road, Suite 503 • Arlington, VA 22203  
Office (703) 841-2519 • Fax (703) 524-8670  
catholicschools@arlingtondiocese.org

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Dear School Parents,

You may have heard earlier today that Governor Northam made some adjustments to statewide mandates regarding gatherings and mask wearing. Shortly after he made his announcement, the Virginia Council for Private Education (VCPE) issued clarifying guidance for private schools in the state.

Specifically, we learned that the gathering size reduction from 250 to 25 persons does not apply to educational settings, public or private (though spectators at athletic events are limited to 25). The Governor also mandated that all persons over the age of 5 wear masks in all schools, public and private. Diocesan schools are reviewing their reopening/mitigation plans to ensure compliance with this mandate where it is not already being met.

Growing community awareness in recent days of rising positivity rates nationally and locally serves to remind all of us of the importance of continued vigilance. Our schools, with your help, have done a remarkable job in keeping children, educators, and families safe. Because we know how valuable the opportunity of in-person learning is for your children, we must redouble our commitment, in and out of school, to the strategies we know are helping to reduce risk of transmission of the virus.

Sincerely in Christ,

Joseph E Vorbach III, PhD, MEd  
Superintendent of Schools