



September 22, 2021

Dear Parents,

As you are all very aware, the COVID-19 pandemic continues to plague our communities. Since the September 13th temporary injunction of HR 847, the law banning mask mandates in District-Public schools, we have received many communications regarding our response. Legal Counsel, in accord with the other three diocese/archdiocese, have reconfirmed the injunction *does not* apply to accredited non-public schools. As directed, we will continue to adhere to the law in our schools. We understand the legal guidance to follow HF847 may not be an acceptable decision by some but highly supported by others. This has continued to be the case throughout the pandemic. In the midst of these challenges we continue to ask that all of us again renew our commitment to voluntarily help slow the spread of COVID-19, to take appropriate mitigation steps when able, and to be agents of unity in our broader communities. We do believe that this moment can be a reminder of the importance of the mitigation strategies we can practice as a way of contributing to the common good and protecting the most vulnerable among us.

We want to reassure all constituents we are closely monitoring, with the assistance of our medical team, the fluidity of the virus throughout our diocesan schools. Thankfully, our schools are not seeing high numbers of positive COVID cases. We will begin releasing weekly updates on the positivity levels of the metro and rural regions to share with our school communities.

This pandemic has been exhausting for all of us, but we must resist “COVID fatigue” and stay the course. We are so grateful for the work that our administrators, faculty and staff continue to do and the efforts that you have taken to help the faithful carry the burdens of this time. Our schools have always been and will continue to be committed to providing high quality spiritual and academic formation in a safe and nurturing environment.

Let us all continue to show Christian love and charity towards one another as we pray for an end to the pandemic and for all those who are suffering because of it.

Yours in Christ,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Donna Bishop".

Donna Bishop
Superintendent of Schools