

NEWS RELEASE

Catholic Diocese of Peoria

July 21, 2021

For Immediate Release

The Catholic Diocese of Peoria Announces Guidelines for the Opening of the 2021-22 School Year

PEORIA, IL: The Catholic Diocese of Peoria released guidance on July 21, 2021 for the opening of the 2021-2022 school year. The Office of Catholic Schools (OCS) consulted the Archdiocese of Chicago, the Diocese of Belleville, the Diocese of Joliet, the Diocese of Rockford and the Diocese of Springfield, in addition to reviewing guidance from the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), the Illinois Department of Public Health, and Illinois State Board of Education in writing this guidance.

CDC recommends the wearing of masks, being vaccinated and other strategies to mitigate the transmission of COVID-19. On July 9, 2021, the CDC also published guidelines stating that if local conditions do not indicate an increase in community transmission levels, school administrators can “remove any of the prevention strategies...and should remove them one at a time and monitor closely.” In the Catholic Diocese of Peoria, it will be the decision of a parent or guardian on whether or not their child will wear a mask or will be vaccinated. Our school administrators will regularly consult OCS and closely monitor local conditions. If there are changes that may occur based on this monitoring, the school will communicate these changes to its employees and families.

The Catholic Diocese of Peoria stretches across 17,000 square miles and in 26 counties. Its educational system includes 42 elementary and secondary schools, 9,600 students, and 850 teachers.

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