



PROVIDENCE CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL

1800 W. Lincoln Highway • New Lenox, Illinois 60451 • (815) 485-2136 • www.providencatholic.org

Fr. John Merkelis, OSA, President
jmerkelis@providencatholic.org

Dear Providence Family,

I need a week!

There is a lot going on as we do our final checks in preparation for the start of school. We are installing cameras and microphones in the classrooms to live stream lessons in a way that allows students at home to participate as though they are on campus. The faculty have been attending workshops that have introduced new ways of presenting information. Next week they will be trained in the use of the new equipment. And they will be acclimating to a new classroom set-up, with desks placed 6 feet apart for social distance. That's a lot!

We are committed to opening with a blended model of instruction that combines on-campus instruction with online instruction. I want this to go well! I feel, in the deepest part of my heart, that we can use one more week of preparation in order to maximize the opportunity for success.

Therefore, with the support of the Diocese of Joliet and the approval of the administration at Providence Catholic High School, I inform you that the New Celtic Welcome has been re-scheduled to Thursday, August 20th and Friday, August 21st. Our first full day of class is Monday, August 24th.

This may be an inconvenience, but I want to make sure we are ready. I prefer to take an extra week rather than rush such an important decision. There is a lot riding on the successful implementation of our model, and I feel more comfortable with the added week of preparation.

Today, all families have been mailed a packet containing a booklet entitled Reopening Procedures and Policies for Students and Parents, as well as other important information for a successful start to the school year. The booklet will explain our blended model as well as the safety guidelines and precautions we have developed to ensure the health and well-being of our Providence Family.

I thank you for your patience and understanding. Please keep us in prayer, as we pray for you each day.

Prayers for the Providence Family!

Fr. Merk