



PROVIDENCE CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL

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

October 16, 2020

Dear Providence Parent,

We are writing to you specifically because your role as a parent is crucial to our continuing to have students on our campus.

We just completed Week 8 of our return to school. This was accomplished through prayer (a lot of prayer!) and incredible cooperation from administrators, faculty, staff, students and parents. We can continue only if the cooperation is maintained.

We are alarmed at reports of parents who provide places for students to meet and carry on as though we are not in the middle of a pandemic! In our region alone, our positivity rate has jumped from approximately 5.5 to 7.1 in the span of 10 days! That means the daily positivity rate is at or over 8.0!!! In short, for the positivity rate (which is averaged over 7 days) to increase so rapidly, daily rates are shooting up even higher!

We are aware that the students have suffered due to the losses they have experienced; loss of regular school, participation in sports, extra-curricular activities and just the normal time spent with friends. We offer this caution: decisions to sponsor or allow students to meet in groups, particularly without wearing masks or being attentive to social distancing, jeopardizes our ability to have students on campus. Pretending or denying the danger in no way protects students, nor our faculty and staff, from harm.

PLEASE think of the safety of your family, and of the common good of all students. Please do not sponsor nor support gatherings that are hazardous to health, and that will endanger what we have accomplished: 8 weeks of being in school **and counting!**

In Truth, Unity and Love,
Fr. Merk & Dr. Harper