



PROVIDENCE CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL

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Dr. John R. Harper, Principal
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Dear Providence Catholic Parents,

Pending approval from the Diocese of Joliet, we intend to open school utilizing a blended model. The Providence Catholic blended instructional model combines on campus learning with the teacher and synchronous online learning, meaning classes will be streamed live to students at home.

The PCHS student body will be divided into two separate cohorts, with special attention paid to keeping siblings in the same cohort. While one cohort is on campus in the classrooms, the other cohort will be at home, connecting live to the classroom via Microsoft Teams. Families who do not wish to send their student to campus will have the option of live online instruction. On campus and online students will be participating in class at the same time.

One cohort will be on campus Mondays and Wednesdays, while the other cohort is on campus Tuesdays and Thursdays each week. Cohorts will alternate on campus attendance on Fridays. This means, on any given week, one cohort will be on campus three days a week, while the other cohort is present on campus two days a week. Most importantly, our blended model enables all students to receive instruction five days a week.

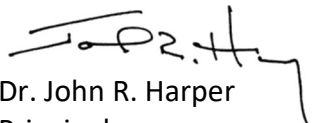
The decision to move to a blended model of instruction was not made lightly. A team of teachers, staff members, and administrators has been meeting weekly for the past several months to plan for the reopening of school this fall with respect to the COVID-19 pandemic. This team researched online classes, on campus classes with the full student body in attendance, and the blended model of instruction. We are confident that our blended model best complies with the recently published guidelines set forth by the Illinois State Board of Education, [“Starting the 2020-21 School Year.”](#) Above all, it is the safest way to proceed given the current circumstances; the health and safety of your child is our priority. Further, it allows us the flexibility to pivot back to all online classes should COVID-19 circumstances require it, or to eventually transition to on campus learning with the full student-body in attendance.

I know that I speak for every PCHS administrator, teacher, and staff member, when I say that we long for the day when all our students can attend school on campus daily. Under current conditions, however, we do not deem this as being in the best interest of our students.

As I stated at the beginning of this letter, our plan to open under a blended model of instruction is based upon the best information available to us at this time. Should new or different information become available, we will reevaluate our options and communicate with you. Once our plan has been approved by the Diocese of Joliet, we will provide you further information, including specific protocols for returning to school and a detailed calendar.

I thank you for your patience and understanding, particularly in these extraordinary and challenging times. We remain faithful to our mission of providing quality spiritual, academic, athletic and extra-curricular programs for the Providence Family. In this way, we “become something greater, together.”

In Truth, Unity and Love,



Dr. John R. Harper
Principal

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