

July 17, 2020

Good afternoon FAW family,

On Wednesday, the Archdiocese of Washington (ADW) Reopening Task Force presented its Reopening Plan and Guidelines - *Onward Together in Faith* to pastors and principals. Archdiocesan leaders then met with principals by region yesterday afternoon to answer questions and provide further details and clarification. The comprehensive document from the ADW will direct the FAW Reopening Working Group as we finalize our school plan.

Our working group is currently in the process of determining options for families as we begin the new school year. Those options are likely to include:

- 5 day/week in-person learning with multiple health and safety measures in place (based on CDC and ADW guidelines and as identified by the St. Mary's County Health Department)
- **or** full-time remote learning (using a similar approach to the spring, but with modifications due to the need for creating a balanced, manageable workload for teachers)

Either option will require a commitment to parental support and engagement. In addition, for both options, there are countless details to be finalized and ultimately approved by the archdiocese. Once completed, the school plan must be submitted to the archdiocese for review and will be returned to the school within 72 hours with either approval or a request for revisions. With this timeline in mind, my goal is to be able to share the plan for reopening FAW with school families no later than the end of July.

For as long as I can remember, I have loved both participating in and watching sports, and I often find inspiration when reading the words of famous athletes and coaches. The following quote by basketball legend Michael Jordan is a source of encouragement at this extremely challenging time. "Obstacles don't have to stop you. If you run into a wall, don't turn around and give up. Figure out how to climb it, go through it, or work around it."

The obstacle in front of us, while daunting, is not insurmountable. With prayer and persistence, I have full confidence in our ability to prioritize the safety, health and well-being of our students, faculty and staff while continuing to provide a rigorous academic program rooted in Gospel values and the Catholic faith.

Sincerely,

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