



The Atonement Academy

CATHOLIC + CLASSICAL

May 28, 2020

Dear Academy Family,

It is a season for planning and prayer. Over the past several weeks, I have written about our intention to return The Atonement Academy's academic program to our home campus beginning Wednesday, August 12. Today I would like to share some of the major contours of the "Safe Return Plan" that we are beginning to implement.

Enhanced Distancing, Sanitation, and Health Measures. We have already set several elements of this in motion. Teachers who are anticipating the largest classes in the fall are being moved to the largest classrooms in order to achieve maximum social distancing. Passing periods for older students have been lengthened to allow for staggered movements. Daily janitorial rounds have been reconceived to prioritize disinfection of high traffic areas and touch points. Going forward, we are investigating the possibility of daily temperature checks for students and staff, the use of masks, installation of hand sanitizer dispensers throughout the buildings, and other possible safety measures.

Remote Learning Ready. This past quarter has shown us that, in the event of a mandated campus closure, we are able to work together as a community to carry on the education of the next generation. We have learned much from our first attempt at remote learning, and are well positioned to refine our approach ahead of next school year. We hope to have your help with this process. Earlier today, a survey went out to all Academy families asking you to share your experience with remote learning this past quarter. Please take a few minutes to respond so that we can ensure that Atonement's "Remote Learning Plan 2.0" is ready to deploy should this become necessary at any point during the upcoming school year.

First Quarter Remote Option. While we believe that we can safely return to campus in August, we also recognize some Academy families may not be completely comfortable with this step. Therefore, we will allow families the option of registering individually to study remotely for the first quarter only. Though we happily make this arrangement to accommodate parents' discretion as their children's primary educators, we also hope that, seeing the caution and good order with which we begin the year, they will quickly make arrangements to join us on campus.

As we look ahead, it is natural to crave certainty. I know I do! In the absence of certainty, however, the most forward looking thing we can do is pray, then make a plan and work toward implementing it. Our approach mirrors what many thoughtful institutions are doing at this time. For now, the principles de-



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scribed above are guiding our preparations for August while also allowing us the summer to adjust as additional insights into COVID-19's spread emerge and best practices continue to be developed. From this place of readiness, we will be well positioned to alter course as needed.

Stay steady, Crusaders. Our Lady of the Atonement—pray for us!

Your servant,

Matthew David Watson
Head of School