



**DIOCESE OF ORANGE**  
DEPARTMENT OF CATHOLIC SCHOOLS  
13280 CHAPMAN AVENUE, GARDEN GROVE, CA 92840

**OC CATHOLIC SCHOOLS SUPPORT THE RAPID AND SAFE REOPENING OF CALIFORNIA SCHOOLS**

July 23, 2020

Dear OC Catholic School Parents,

I pray this message finds you healthy and well as we navigate these extraordinary times.

On behalf of the Diocese of Orange Department of Catholic Schools, I am pleased to share [this statement](#) from our California Catholic Bishops. Through the [California Catholic Conference](#), which is the official public policy voice of the Catholic Church in California, our bishops call on Governor Newsom to rapidly develop safe procedures to reopen schools.

While we cannot predict what the COVID-19 pandemic will look like this fall, OC Catholic Schools have implemented a number of enhanced health and safety measures based on guidance from local health and government authorities, including gathering parent feedback on how to best proceed.

We are in support of this effort by our Catholic Bishops in urging the Governor to expedite regulations that will enable local health authorities to grant waivers to reopen schools for in-person instruction. There are nearly 11 million Catholics in California and the Catholic Church is the largest private provider of health care, social services and education in the state.

I am grateful to the many parents who have reached out to me these past few days expressing their desire to re-open Catholic school campuses. We are currently exploring the waiver process in Orange County as stated in the revised state guidelines. While we explore this option, I ask you and your families to join us in urging Governor Newsom to let us reopen Catholic schools for in-person learning by filling out this short, 2-minute state-run survey: [click here](#). Alternatively, write a personal letter to the Governor expressing your support on the safe reopening of California schools. Letters can be addressed to:

**Governor Gavin Newsom**  
**1303 10th Street, Suite 1173**  
**Sacramento, CA 95814**

Thank you for your time and attention to this effort, and thank you for your support of Catholic education.

In mission,

Erin C.O. Barisano, Ed.D.  
Superintendent of Schools  
Diocese of Orange