



UTAH CATHOLIC SCHOOLS

Nurturing Faith, Expanding Knowledge, Preparing for the Future

Utah Catholic Schools ♦ 27 C Street, Salt Lake City, Utah 84103 ♦ (801) 328-8641 ♦ dioslc.org/schools

November 16, 2021

Dear Utah Catholic School Parents and Friends,

The exciting news for our elementary school communities is that the COVID-19 vaccination is now available for students, ages 5-11. I encourage you to speak with your pediatrician and review the recommendations of the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and the American Academy of Pediatrics to make an informed choice about vaccinating your child/ren.

Presently, each school is monitoring the vaccination rates of its respective student populations. In our high schools, the total vaccination rate for our students, staff and faculty is well over 90%. Initially, because of this high vaccination rate, all three schools had a mask optional policy. Currently, Saint Joseph High School and Juan Diego High School still have a mask optional policy in place.

Judge Memorial, Our Lady of Lourdes, J.E. Cosgriff, and The Madeleine Choir school all fall within the Salt Lake City boundaries and must wear masks at least through December 20, when the current emergency declaration is set to expire. If Salt Lake City decides to extend the emergency declaration, then these schools will need to continue wearing masks.

The Catholic Schools' Office will be closely monitoring the vaccination rates in our schools through the end of the year. We anticipate a high vaccination rate among our elementary age students, and we will continue to consult our state and local health departments. In January, our current COVID-19 safety protocols will be reviewed and adjusted if necessary.

During this month of Thanksgiving, I would be remiss if I did not again thank you for your patience and understanding during these unprecedented times. I also must thank our administrators and teachers for their continued dedication to our students and to the mission of Catholic education. I pray that you have a wonderful season of thanksgiving and that your families remain healthy during the upcoming holidays.

Peace and Blessings,

Mark Longe
Superintendent of Catholic Schools