



VENANGO REGION CATHOLIC SCHOOL

October 5, 2021

Dear VRCS Families,

Past protocols developed and adopted by VRCS as part of the original *Return to School Plan 2020* permitted students to safely attend classes and experience events such as prom, graduation, and the first annual Viking Games. Let's not forget, while other schools were remote, we were in the classroom.

Remaining in person was not an easy task. All members of our school community worked together to guarantee health and safety best practices were being followed. Sacrifices were made to ensure students could continue to receive a traditional in-person education and keep our school community healthy.

Like everyone, I dream of the day when COVID no longer consumes my daily thoughts and hijacks short and long-term planning. But unfortunately, that day has not yet arrived.

Positive COVID-19 cases within our community and school family reinforce the need to continue taking measures to keep our families, faculty, and staff safe as we await an end to this pandemic. We need to remain committed to keeping our school family healthy, which will permit us to continue delivering face-to-face instruction.

- If anyone in your household has presented symptoms and is awaiting COVID-19 test results, all members of your household should be isolated (unless vaccinated). Please keep your children home from school until test results come back negative. Please contact the school to arrange remote instruction.
- Please remember that giving your child fever-reducing medication can mask symptoms of COVID-19 and could result in an unintended exposure of our school family to the virus.
- If your child is not feeling well, keep them home.
- Please exercise caution after school and on the weekends. Avoid large crowds, follow local mask requests, and be mindful of traveling both in and out of state.

It is you, our families, not administration or staff, that hold the keys to remaining in-person. Outbreaks at either campus could result in the school moving remote.

Families should also be aware there is a national teacher shortage. VRCS has no substitute teachers. Teachers and administration for the past two years have been covering multiple classrooms. Often this results in no planning period or no lunch break for some of our staff

members. This also causes frustration for students if they should miss their related arts or elective courses as staff are asked to cover classrooms in need of coverage. Finally, there is the chance that entire grades levels will be moved online if teachers must quarantine and substitutes are unavailable.

Please know this could happen at any time. Parents should have a plan of action to ensure students will be able to complete coursework remotely. If instructional modes change, families will be notified via email and through our emergency broadcast system.

Thank you for your partnership in ensuring the safety of our students, staff, and the entire school community.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mrs. Laura Blake". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Mrs. Laura Blake
President, Venango Region Catholic School