



June 10, 2021

Dear Catholic school parents and families,

Peace in Christ.

School is out for the summer! Hardly ever before has this phrase evoked such a strong mix of thoughts and feelings among students, teachers, leaders, and families.

We write today to thank you for your commitment to Catholic education shown through the 2020-2021 school year. Catholic schools are privileged to partner with parents in the education of their children. In a school year filled with the constant uncertainty and struggle of a global Pandemic, along with social concerns that impacted many of our neighborhoods, we came to understand in a new way what our partnership with your family really means. With the help of God, we did this together.

Through careful COVID-19 mitigation plans that were informed by science and public health guidance, Catholic school buildings opened for in-person learning in the autumn of 2020 and continued to provide this essential service through the close of this school year. Together we were able to provide this foundational experience of education for our children and young people. We did this, as we have always done, united by our faith and coming together to form a community of excellence centered on Jesus Christ and carrying on His mission.

The Archdiocese of Saint Paul and Minneapolis serves over 29,000 PreK-12 grade students through 90 Catholic schools and across 12 Minnesota counties in over 50 public school districts. Our schools are staffed by heroic teachers and leaders, who understand their work with your family as a deeply vocational response to God's call in their lives. These remarkable teachers and leaders have been tested this year in ways that they hardly imagined. They proved even more clearly what makes our Catholic schools such outstanding places of learning. Their dedication to the good of their students was above and beyond the call of duty. Please join us in thanking them for their dedicated service and please pray for them every day.

Teachers, leaders, and staff of Catholic schools are grateful to God for the opportunity to accompany your family through these times of uncertainty. We look forward to serving your family for many years to come and to welcoming you back in the autumn for the 2021-2022 school year, grateful that the need for facemasks and physical distancing are things of the past.

We thank you for supporting the educational mission of the Church. We ask for your prayers that Catholic schools remain places of authentic community, united to one another by their love of God, in the pursuit of excellence for every child in their care. Please join us in praying for a complete and total eradication of COVID-19 from every corner of the globe and in solidarity with all those who are still suffering its terrible effects.

With a promise of prayer for you and your family, we remain,

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Handwritten signature of Andrew H. Cozzens in cursive script.

Most Reverend Andrew H Cozzens
Auxiliary Bishop of Saint Paul and Minneapolis
Vicar for Education

Handwritten signature of Jason Slattery in cursive script.

Dr. Jason Slattery
Director of Catholic Education