

August 2023

Dear Catholic School Community Members,

On behalf of Archbishop Jose Gomez and the entire team at the Department of Catholic Schools, I want to welcome you back to school! We pray that you and your family had an enjoyable and productive summer.

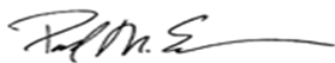
For the first time since the fall of 2019, I am pleased to write to you to share our excitement and enthusiasm for the new school year without pandemic-related guidance. Though this past year came without the restrictions our schools faced during the pandemic, returning to “normal” has brought its own set of opportunities and challenges for educators, students and families. From social and emotional health to academic performance, children are confronting and overcoming the aftermath of the pandemic’s impact on their development. Our schools have been working diligently to support students and our collaboration with parents has never been more vital.

As we kick-off the 2023-24 school year, let’s celebrate the gift of Catholic schools by recommitting to the partnership we have as families and schools. As primary educators, parents play a crucial role in the spiritual, intellectual and emotional development of their children. As partners, Catholic educators are uniquely positioned to accompany parents in the formation of their children. This social compact necessitates positive and proactive communication to support resolutions to conflicts. Cooperation and collaboration of parents with our teachers and principals are critical to ensure student success and growth.

We are eager to reconnect with our students and families as one Catholic school community united by our collective commitment to form our children in the image of Christ and the Gospel. Our educators are among the most dedicated and committed individuals in the education sector. As ministers of our Catholic faith, they have been called to their vocation to evangelize the Catholic faith, educate young minds and form them for their future. This is what separates us from other school systems and why the Catholic school difference is so compelling.

Once again, welcome back to school and thank you for choosing Catholic schools. Have a blessed school year!

Yours in Christ,



Paul M. Escala
Superintendent of Schools