

Dear BCACS Family,

It's hard to believe we are quickly approaching the holiday season. This is a time of the year when we typically attend gatherings, visit with friends, and spend time with family. Many people have found this year to be incredibly challenging so relaxing with relatives and close friends would be a welcome relief to the isolation we experienced during the spring. That being said, we are writing to you to ask for your support and cooperation. If you are planning on spending time around larger groups of people, please be diligent and remember to adhere to recommended CDC guidelines:

- Wear masks
- Practice social distancing
- Limit time spent in close contact with others
- Wash hands frequently

For additional information visit: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/daily-life-coping/holidays.html>

Our school leaders, administration, teachers, and staff have done an outstanding job at developing ***and*** maintaining a safe learning environment for our kids. Parents have done a great job following protocols put in place and so far we have had a great school year. It is because of the continued efforts of our staff and families that we are able to provide an opportunity for in-person learning. We were able to do this at a time when many other schools made the decision to teach virtually. We are so fortunate to have such a dedicated BCACS staff and committed parents.

We are writing to you because we need your help. We know how important in-person learning is to the overall education and social development of our students. Additionally, we know that virtual learning creates an extra burden on families so it is not something we want to do. We want to make sure we are able to continue offering in-person learning.

Our teachers and staff have continued to come to school each day despite some not being fully comfortable and putting themselves at risk of getting sick. Many families have made a number of sacrifices, including not visiting loved ones or distancing themselves from friends and family. We owe it to each other to remain committed to the health, safety, and well-being of those around us.

So our request is simply this...If you are planning on being around large groups of people please be safe. Please remember to follow the protocols that school has put in place. Lastly, please remember we are all in this together. If we all make an effort to ***safely*** enjoy the upcoming holiday season we will have a better chance at continuing our school year in-person, and ultimately our kids will be better because of it.

We send our prayers for your family's continued good health.

Sincerely,

The Battle Creek Area Catholic Schools Advisory Board