



DIOCESE OF JEFFERSON CITY

OFFICE OF THE BISHOP

1 June 2020

Memorial of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of the Church

Dear Presidents and Principals of our Catholic Schools,

The Church places the highest value on the Catholic education of her children, because it is linked to the very mission of the Church, especially her evangelization of all humanity: “Go therefore, and make disciples of all nations” (Matthew 28:19). Our apostolic origins, which bind us in communion with the Lord and his mission, underscore the urgency of Catholic education and remind the parents, teachers, and indeed the whole parish, of their great responsibility.

As we strive to work better together to continue this ministry of education, it is necessary to have policies to guide our efforts. For this reason, I asked the Superintendent and the Diocesan Advisory School Board to review, revise and propose new policies. This handbook is a result of this consultative process. I accept the policies, rules and regulations incorporated in this handbook for the guidance and governance of all Catholic schools in the Diocese of Jefferson City, effective 1 July 2020. Future policy revisions may be incorporated, which require the signature of the Diocesan Bishop.

According to the Canon Law of the Church, a school may only bear the title “Catholic school” only if so designated by the Diocesan Bishop. Further, the Diocesan Bishop and his delegated Catholic Schools Office staff have the right and the duty to supervise and regulate the Catholic schools of the diocese.

These policies are obligatory for all who work with and attend Catholic schools in the Diocese of Jefferson City. Because of the importance of this handbook, every president and principal of our Catholic schools is to have a working knowledge of its contents and is contractually obliged to abide by its policies.

In addition, this handbook will assist the practice of co-responsibility between pastors, school advisory councils, administrators, teachers and parents in the development of local school policies and regulations. Each policy and regulation developed at the local school level must be consistent with the policies of this handbook.

Invoking the maternal intercession of the Immaculate Heart of Mary, our diocesan Patroness, for the Catholic schools in our diocese, I am

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Most Reverend W. Shawn McKnight, S.T.D.
Bishop of Jefferson City