## **LUTHERAN HIGH SCHOOL OF ST. CHARLES COUNTY**



**Equipping Students for Lives of Christian Service** 

May 15, 2020

Hello Cougar Family:

"Fear not, for I am with you; be not dismayed, for I am your God; I will strengthen you, I will help you,
I will uphold you with my righteous right hand." (Isaiah 14:10)

As the spring semester draws to a close, it's a good time to celebrate one another. Every member of the student body, faculty, and staff deserves credit for coming together to complete the semester in the face of challenges unlike any in living memory. I am proud of the continued strength of our entire Lutheran High School community!

Many of you are eager to hear how we will proceed next semester. I'm excited to announce **Lutheran High School plans to be back on campus in the fall!** We intend to reopen the campus, hold classes in person, welcome students and staff back, and host campus activities. LHS is a community regardless of physical distance; a core component of that community exists in the experience of campus life <u>together!</u>

Our plans for the fall are guided by two important factors: 1) continuing to ensure the health and safety of all members of the LHS community, and 2) continuing to provide an exceptional, Christ-centered educational experience for every student. While we will strive for campus life in the fall to resemble normalcy as much as possible, we know full well that it may be a new "normal." As we continue to follow state and federal guidelines in our response to COVID-19, our Leadership Team is integrating these guidelines regarding future campus operations.

To continue to meet our obligations to both students and employees, we are considering and planning multiple possible scenarios. Doing so now will help LHS remain nimble as the COVID-19 situation evolves over the summer. As we look toward a return to campus:

- We understand the significance that enhanced public-health and social distancing precautions
  will play in ensuring the well-being of the LHS community. We are already meeting best practices
  for sanitation and cleaning and are developing additional safety protocols to support all
  operations throughout our facility.
- We are already well-positioned to continue providing both online and in-person learning experiences and are building new hybrid models to offer a mix of the two if necessary. As a small campus, we can adjust to provide on campus courses that adhere with social distancing regulations.
- We will continue to ensure that our response plans and procedures follow the recommendations of public health agencies like the Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services and the federal CDC.

As has been the case throughout our response to COVID-19, you can continue to expect regular and transparent communication regarding our status and operations. In spite of the unknowns that swirl around us, we rest in the peace and assurance that God is with us in Christ. His ultimate gift to us is Christ Himself. As promised in the Isaiah passage above, we can rely on HIS strength!

I look forward to seeing you on campus this fall!

In His Service, Dr. Craig Ernstmeyer Head of School