



November 19, 2021

Dear Parents and Students,

Thanksgiving is just around the corner. Next week I will return home to celebrate the holiday with my family. At our dinner table on Thanksgiving we always give thanks for our blessings. Next Thursday I will be sure to mention all of you in my Prayer of Thanksgiving. The love, support, generosity and patience you have all shown me these last five months has been nothing short of spectacular. From our esteemed bishop to the Catholic Center staff, pastors, principals, parents, grandparents, coaches, students and stakeholders, every one of you has been beyond gracious and helpful when I have needed it most. And for this, I am most thankful.

In return, it has been my goal to not only be an active participant in our diocesan, parish and school activities and events, but to also fulfill Bishop Talley's words of bringing together our schools into one "system". And early indications are that we are becoming stronger together. I am especially proud of the work of our Catholic Schools office in conjunction with the Communications Department in marketing our schools through recent videos. These videos continue to improve and showcase each of our 15 schools. After our last video I commented that I don't know why every child in our diocese is not enrolled in one of our fabulous schools. That is my goal and together we can make this happen.

In closing, I also want to congratulate each of our schools for their handling of the ongoing pandemic. Cases in all of our schools have been incredibly low throughout this school year and continue to be so as we approach the holidays. Again, this is due to our families and schools working together to ensure a safe and efficient learning environment. I want to clarify that our Catholic schools in Shelby County are allowed to be mask optional at this time, but that each diocesan/parochial school under the leadership and guidance of their pastor and principal have the ability to adjust masking policies as needed. I have complete faith and trust in them to do what is best for our students and staff and they have proved that throughout this school year. Have a Happy Thanksgiving and thanks again to each of you. Let's not forget that we are all blessed by Our Father.

Mr. Pierre N. Antoine

Mr. Pierre N. Antoine
Superintendent of Catholic Schools

cc: Most Reverend Bishop David P. Talley, M.S.W., J.C.D.
Very Reverend Keith Stewart, Vicar General
Pastors
Dr. Colleen Butterick, Director, School Counseling Services
Sandra Goldstein, Director, Office of Human Resources
Rick Ouellette, Director, Office of Communications
Margaret Scott, Executive Assistant to Bishop David P. Talley