MISSION STATEMENT

In light of Church documents, Catholic schools in the Diocese of Reno, in partnership with parents, are committed to fostering gospel values, academic excellence and life-long service in a faith-centered community.

Dear Parents and Guardians,

Welcome to the 2020-2021 year in the Diocese of Reno schools. We value your trust and support as we embark on a new year.

The end of last year found us quickly pivoting to distance learning to ensure the physical safety of students and staff while continuing academic studies based on measurable standards and student achievement. Parents, teachers, administrators and students working together made this successful transition possible. Having many technological tools in place, coupled with a commitment to rigorous faith-based education, significantly contributed to our success as well. As I heard repeatedly during the mandated school closure, “Our teachers continued to teach, and our students continued to learn.”

At year-end, we immediately convened a campus reopening committee to begin planning for the fall. This committee was comprised of Diocesan School Board members, elementary and secondary Catholic school administrators, teachers, and parents. We also established two subcommittees: “health and safety” and “education.” The broad range of expertise and perspective represented on these committees ensured thorough discussion of pertinent issues while also maintaining the loving lens of parents’ eyes. Given the frequently changing protocols and directives, the committees established four scenarios for which to plan.

- The school year starts normally, on campus with no restrictions.
- The school year starts on campus with social distancing and hygiene protocols, which may require a creative use of available space, special schedules, some distance learning, and a mix of other procedures and options.
- The school year starts virtually.
- The school year may include rolling closures due to a second wave of COVID-19.

These leadership groups utilized information from, but not limited to, the CDC, Governor Sisolak’s Directives and local health departments. As you are aware, recommendations continue to be modified, and therefore, our plans remain fluid. Each school developed reopening plans that have been approved by their respective boards. Please know that all involved worked extremely hard to prepare for the four scenarios mentioned above.

Since school has started, we are grateful for your help. The successful implementation of these plans called for the commitment of the entire school community — faculty, staff, students and their families. Schools have access to a process in place for parents to verify that their student and those living in the household are all healthy. This varies by school, but is implicit in its desire to maintain health and minimize risk of exposure. We truly appreciate your respect for this process.

Catholic education focuses on partnership with parents in educating the whole child ... spiritually, academically and socially. This year especially calls all of us to that partnership. I pray that God’s loving presence guides us safely through the many challenges of this pandemic and that He provides the tools we need to continue the important mission of Catholic education.

***The following pages highlight some of each schools’ efforts.

Karen Barreras, M.Ed., Superintendent
Diocese of Reno Catholic Schools
290 S. Arlington Ave. Reno, NV 89501   (775) 326-9430   karenb@catholicreno.org
Consider donating to the scholarship fund, which is available to qualifying students in any of our Catholic schools as funds are available:

http://www.catholicrenoscholarship.org or Karen Barreras, 775-326-9430 or Karenb@catholicreno.org

All donations to D.O.R.S. have been doubled since 2010-2011!

Parents, please consider giving to #iGiveCatholic and selecting D.O.R.S. on Giving Tuesday.
The Diocese of Reno is committed to the safety of our children and vulnerable adults.

We are in full compliance with the Dallas Charter and remain diligent in maintaining this compliance.

Through the "Protecting God's Children" program we train people to be more aware of how to protect children and vulnerable adults, and also the possible warning signs of abuse and neglect.

As well, each year all children within our Religious Education programs and within our schools are provided the opportunity to participate in Empowering God’s Children.

Together, all of us can help to create safe environments in our parish, schools, facilities and even beyond.

To register for a background check and also take an online Protecting God’s Children Awareness Session, visit our website: https://renodiocese.org/safe-environment/. During COVID-19 restrictions, live training is postponed.

For additional information, please contact Elda Juarez at (775) 326-9445.
“Start by doing what’s necessary, then what’s possible, and suddenly you are doing the impossible.” - St. Francis of Assisi

The first day of school always feels like a fresh start to a new year. It’s the day that marks the end of summer fun and the beginning of schoolwork. This year was bound to be unlike any other though, because the hard work started well before the year even began. All summer, our administrators, board members, faculty, and staff, worked to prepare safety plans and brand new teaching methodology for this school year — not to mention back-up plans for any unexpected changes being thrown at us. Our students worked to learn new schedules, new rules, new methods of learning, and even new procedures on how to enter and navigate campus. Our families learned new technologies, new safety requirements, and new ways of life to accommodate all the other changes. The first day of school wasn’t the beginning of the 2020-2021 school year’s workload, it was the reward that proved all the hard work of preparation had paid off.

We are more grateful than ever to hear our students’ voices through the computers, see their hands raised in class, and experience teaching and learning in environments that feel safe without losing what makes the Manogue experience special. We are so proud of everyone who made getting back to school a success this year!
OUR MISSION STATEMENT:

We, the community of Our Lady of the Snows Catholic School, in light of the teachings of Christ, are dedicated to promoting the Gospel values, pursuing academic excellence, and preparing students to be responsible citizens who live God’s Word.

Good things are happening at Snows. Back to school is always an exciting and stimulating time. Teachers and staff have been busy over the summer preparing coursework, organizing classrooms and building enthusiasm for the year ahead. Things look different this year, but the students and staff adapted to the new “normal” and everyone is excited to be back!

We had individual classroom virtual back to school nights this year. Parents and students were able to meet their new teachers via video conferencing.

We have some new faces joining our faculty and staff. We are proud to welcome some very talented new teachers into the classrooms. Jessica Cartinella is our new middle school teacher who teaches math and science. We also welcomed two new 5th grade teachers. Ms. Crowley and Mr. Rippingham are both experienced teachers.

Our annual Fall Festival carnival and dinner is cancelled this year due to the pandemic. We are hoping to start again next year.

Explore our school website at www.snowsnv.org
Good News!

We are excited to begin a new school year at St. Albert the Great Catholic School! Our parish and school community welcome the following new teachers to our St. Albert’s family: Caitlin Martin, Kindergarten; Carlye Pagni, 4th grade; Danica Corkern, junior high ELA and Literature; Katie Deaser, Computer Technology; Fayedra Mumme, School Counselor; and Nikki Bush, our new School Office Manager. We also welcome many new aides to our staff: Janine Kearney, Kelsy McQuide, Marisa Cardenas, Angie Machado, Rochelle Perez, Bill Frank, Jackie Foran, and Marianne Anthony. We have lots of new faces and renewed energy to kick off the school year!

St. Albert the Great Catholic School has successfully reopened school for the 2020-21 school year in the midst of COVID-19! We are taking many precautionary measures such as taking each student’s temperature before they enter the building, separating each class into two separate and smaller cohorts, using outside doors for access to the classrooms, and sectioning off our playground so that each student cohort groups plays in a separate area. All students, faculty, and staff are wearing their masks and practicing social distancing protocols as well. It’s working well!

Our students and parents are thrilled to be back in school! While things may look a little different with our COVID-19 precautions in place, the students are doing an excellent job of adjusting to wearing masks and using more technology. Our teachers are working incredibly hard. I am constantly amazed at the way they are able to juggle all of their responsibilities throughout the day, and I appreciate their hard work and dedication to our school.

Since parents are not allowed inside the school due to COVID-19, we had a Virtual Back to School Night on September 17th instead of our traditional Open House. The teachers created personal videos describing their classroom practices and goals for parents to view from home. It’s not the same, but right now it’s consistent with our “new normal.” We miss being together as a family community, and we hope that everyone remains healthy and safe during this challenging time.

God Bless!
Opening school in 2020 has been challenging and we met the challenge! August 24 we opened our doors to our new kindergartners plus students in grades 1-8. We are meeting in-house with the option of Distance Learning for any family uncomfortable with their child being physically present in the school.

Our Distance Learning is working well for the 32 children who elected to take advantage of this program. Our teachers video a lesson or lecture and then post the tape on Google Classroom at the end of the day. They also post any required classwork and homework on Google Classroom. This program has been effective for the teachers and students. It does not require them to manipulate the technology during the day. They simply have to turn the camera on and off. There is an added benefit for our regular absentee students. If a child is absent they can watch the video at night and stay current with the classroom material. The children that are doing the Distance Learning are only one day behind so they can join the physical class whenever they are ready to return.

Although the beginning of the year has been challenging with the pandemic and the smoke, we have seen the best of the people with whom we work. The teachers at Little Flower have risen to the quick advance of technology. They are working and communicating with the Distance Learners which takes time, but all are willing to make the best of this experience for our students.

In addition, our parents have proven to be a huge support. Capital Glass donated plexi-glass partitions for all of our elementary classrooms. We are in the process of installing no-touch hardware on all of our student sinks, donated by another wonderful family. Our parent group is restarting with the hope of including our new families in plans to provide some fun and fund-raising for our school.

We are learning from all of these challenges. I have no doubt that the Little Flower School community will flourish.
St. Teresa School was back for the first day of school on August 24. We decided to start with everyone in school. There were many happy faces and lots of laughter. Kids were doing virtual hugs. The students settled in very quickly to their daily routine; almost as if they were not gone for the past 6 months. It was wonderful to hear the excited voices as they walked through the halls, socially distancing, and in their masks. All the teachers and staff are following the guidelines; social distancing, wearing face coverings and washing hands!!