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Dear Catholic School Families,

With great excitement, I welcome you back to our Catholic schools for the 2025-2026 school year! This year, we embrace the theme of *Hope*, which anchors us in God's promises and sustains us in the joys and challenges of life. As Pilgrims of *Hope*, we journey as a unified diocesan Catholic school family, confident that Christ Himself is our companion and guide, inspiring everyone within our schools to model faith, to build bridges, and to proclaim truth, beauty, and goodness to those around us.

Our Catholic schools are communities where this *hope* takes root in the joy of learning, in the friendships formed, and in the daily encounters with Christ that shape our children's hearts and minds. Your decision to entrust your children to our schools is a courageous witness to *hope*: hope in their future, hope in the mission of the Church, and hope in the transforming power of Christ's love.

Together, we walk this pilgrimage, traveling side-by-side with intention and rooted in faith, to guide our children toward a deeper encounter with Christ. The journey may not always be easy, but as Pilgrims of *Hope*, we know that God's grace provides the strength we need to stay on this path. As your partner in your children's formation, we will continue our mission to support you as the primary educators of your children and to foster school environments that allow students to succeed academically and to live lives of faith, service, and joyful discipleship.

I am grateful for your partnership, your sacrifices, and your faith. Please be assured of my prayers for you and your children as we embark on this new school year. May Christ the Teacher guide us, may Mary, Mother of Hope, watch over us, and may the Holy Spirit fill our communities with courage, joy, and *Hope*.

St. James the Greater, patron saint of pilgrims, pray for us.

In Christ our Hope,



Lauren E. Martin

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Lighting the Way
PITTSBURGH CATHOLIC SCHOOLS

