



Visitation Catholic School

A Catholic Tradition of Excellence Since 1947

8740 S. Emerson Avenue
Los Angeles, California 90045
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www.visitationschool.org

January 13, 2021

Dear Los Angeles County Officials,

Re: Deciding Parties for CA School Reopening Waiver Consultation Process Attestation

I, Mr. Christopher Watson, write this letter of attestation to attest to the following details of consultation with the Visitation School staff on the waiver and reopening process. All formal communication with staff is done via a weekly emails and memos sent to all 28 staff members. As needed, additional emails are sent to all 28 staff members. Also, all teachers Zoom with me every Friday for faculty meetings. Parent communication occurs through our weekly newsletters and emails from the principal, which is sent out each month and as needed via email. The PTO Board meets via Zoom on a monthly basis. I am in constant communication with my staff, my parents, and my PTO School Board.

May 2020: I proposed three scenarios to parents for returning to school and asked for their input. Parents were surveyed, and the results showed a preference for distance learning instruction at the time.

July 20, 2020: Registration for the fall school year opened. When our parents registered for the new school year, we were still planning to have in-person instruction. Part of the registration process is parents agreeing that they have read and agree to abide by our handbook. We had prepared and shared a COVID-19 Addendum to the Parent/Student Handbook for 2020-2021. This addendum contains all of the protocols necessary for the utmost concern for the health and safety of our employees and our students, so parents were communicated the procedures that would be followed for student safety. Within days of opening our registration to our parents, we were notified that we could not return in-person.

August 24, 2020: The entire staff (28) had a Back to School Meeting on Zoom. Included in the meeting were the protocols for teachers returning to teach online and the protocols for the students from the COVID-19 Addendum to the Parent/Student Handbook for 2020-2021 were reviewed. A waiver was discussed, but not actionable at that time.

January 8, 2021: The teaching staff (18) met with me to discuss the possibility of a waiver. Many teachers were now in support of a return to campus for in person instruction in February-March, at the suggestion of the County.

January 12, 2021: The PTO School Board met and was notified that the school had a waiver prepared if they wanted to consider a return to on campus learning at a more appropriate time (i.e., February-March). At this meeting, both the pastor and the PTO School Board expressed their overwhelming support of an in-person return to school when the County recommended it. Both supplied letters of support for the waiver process.

January 13, 2021: An email was sent to all staff (28), explaining the waiver was written and giving the results of the PTO School Board Meeting. I explained that a letter was prepared with the names of all of those teachers, aides, and staff and that those that felt comfortable signing should do so. Of the 28 employees listed, all 28 signed within 48 hours.

I communicate weekly with the entire staff via email and weekly with the school parents and the PTO School Board. All groups were kept informed of our waiver process at each step along the way. Our letters of support from our staff, community leader (Church pastor), and PTO School Board, clearly support in-person instruction for our students in TK-2nd grade.

I ask you to approve this waiver and allow in person instruction on campus as early as possible.

Sincerely,

Principal Christopher P. Watson