



MR. JAMES MCNEANY

PRINCIPAL, GUERIN CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL



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WHY BLENDED LEARNING?

We announce in today's *Guerin Catholic Update* that it is our intention to stay with blended learning through the end of the first trimester. Some will find this decision overly cautious while others will find it prudent. It is difficult to argue with either side as there is no precedent to go by. We continue to balance the well being of our students with the desire to accomplish our mission of making personal and direct connections with our students. As referenced in the notice, the biggest advantage of a blended model is the ability to better socially distance in the classroom so when we have a positive case it minimizes the number of students who have to be quarantined. From our earlier outbreak, it was clear to me that the toll this exclusion took on students was significant.

I continue to be impressed with the interaction that is happening using this blended model. I am witnessing amazing collaboration between teachers with students in class and those at home. I see small group work happening. I see students asking questions from home while a teacher lectures. I see a student at home make a counterpoint to a comment made by a student in class. Not all blended learning is the same, and in speaking with other school leaders around the state I believe we are implementing this model with great success.

With that said, I want to strongly state my opinion that our mission is best accomplished in person. While the blended environment is far and away better than 100% e-learning, it cannot replace the in-person experience. We remain committed to getting back to that model.

I continue to look at this school year with a sense of hope about where we are headed. The winter is sure to present its own unique set of challenges, but when I see the resiliency of our students and the adaptability of our teachers it gives me hope that we can get through this together. May God continue to bless our school, our country and our world.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "J McNeany".

Mr. James McNeany

Principal, Guerin Catholic High School