



August 14, 2019

Dear Parents and Guardians,

We want to take this opportunity to welcome everyone to the new school year and share information pertaining to the security enhancements our schools will be implementing this year.

As many of you are aware, Mr. Steven Meriwether, the Director of Security for the Diocese of Las Vegas, is a former law enforcement Sergeant from the Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department. Every year, Mr. Meriwether actively works with each of our schools to review safety and security measures, ensure best practices, and facilitate ongoing training at each location.

This year, as an added measure of precaution, a trained and licensed armed security officer will be assigned to each of our schools. This level of security has been in the planning stages for quite some time and Mr. Meriwether has been able to place this program into effect for the current school year. Beginning next Monday, August 19th, officers will be present at all times during school hours as well as extra-curricular events. We feel this measure is important and vital to our overall promise of safety and security for our students and staff.

Given that part of their role is to provide a visible deterrence for anyone looking to create trouble on our campuses, we also wish to assure you that this added safety measure is not the result of any current threat or issue. Please know that these officers come from an established, professional security firm with trained personnel, many of whom are former military and law enforcement. While we know this will be a change at our campuses, we have previously had an armed security presence at a few of our schools, and in those instances, they quickly became part of the community.

Should you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to share them with your principal or pastor. It is our intent to make this new protocol as seamless as possible, without creating disruption to our students' school experience. The safety of our students is our priority and we thank you for your support of our efforts.

Sincerely,

Steven Meriwether
Director of Security, Sgt. LVMPD (Ret.)

Catherine Thompson
Superintendent of Catholic Schools