

As we approach a new week, post Hurricane Laura, our school leadership has been diligently assessing the damage to school campuses and have begun clean-up work. On-going efforts involve clearing debris, water damage mitigation, covering damaged roofs and working with our insurance adjustors. Preliminary assessments show varied amounts of damage to sites, ranging from outside fencing, roofing, HVAC damage and internal structural damage. We are hopeful that some of our sites will welcome students as utilities are restored to the area. Other sites may be able to offer a virtual learning platform if necessary. Schools will open up on a site by site basis, as circumstances dictate.

In a ray of hope, Our Lady Immaculate Catholic School in Jennings, was spared damage and opened up this week for face to face instruction.

We have been reaching out to families, faculty and staff this week to discuss their circumstances and determine their needs. We know that many of us are displaced and anxious about the future. Without a doubt, we know that God is with us and we are a people filled with faith and guided by hope.

The Catholic Schools in the Diocese of Lake Charles are committed to working round the clock to ***clear the path to re-opening schools***. Each school principal will continue to reach out to their communities with updates and progress. The Office of Catholic Schools have set up temporary offices at Our Lady Immaculate Catholic School in Jennings to assist schools throughout this process.

Catholic Schools have always had a strong presence in Southwest Louisiana and Hurricane Laura, as strong as she might have been, will not change that. With the support of Bishop Glen John Provost, the Office of Catholic Schools, our school communities and our extended supporters, I am certain we can ***clear the path forward to a brighter future***.

Kimberlee Gazzolo
Superintendent of Schools