



June 1, 2015

Dear Parents and Guardians,

As the school year comes to a close, the Office for Child and Youth Protection (OCYP) wanted to provide you with some important coming attractions for the 2015/16 school year.

As you may be aware, significant changes to *Pennsylvania's Child Protective Services Law (CPSL)* went into effect this year. In keeping with the changes to the law and to demonstrate the Archdiocese's continued commitment to protect the children entrusted to our care, *The Policy for the Protection of Children and Young People* has been updated, as well.

The updates to the Archdiocesan Policy will be in effect when the new school year begins and will directly impact anyone who wishes to work or serve as a volunteer in our schools. Please keep in mind that as a part of our Safe Environment Program, *all school volunteers*, as well as staff, must undergo criminal and child abuse background checks **prior** to starting their activities in the school. This is true even if you plan on volunteering just one time, such as chaperoning a class trip. The process of obtaining these clearances can take some time. If you want to volunteer in September, you might consider taking care of it over the summer. For information on the new requirements or to find out how to obtain background please visit OCYP's website at www.childyouthprotection.org under "Staff & Volunteers" or you may contact OCYP at 215-587-2466 or e-mail us at ocyp@archphila.org.

I offer my best wishes to you and your family for a wonderful summer. If the OCYP staff can ever be of assistance, please do not hesitate to contact us.

With warm regards,

Leslie J. Davila M.S., Director
Office for Child and Youth Protection

