



February 10, 2021

Dear Families,

We've sent this letter out a day early this week in an attempt to not let it get lost in the shuffle of Winter Break. Hopefully, you'll find the information enclosed to be timely.

IMPORTANT NOTICE – Updated Wednesday Morning 2/10. Unless the predicted snowfall arrives prior to 6:00am on Thursday, we will attempt to open school on time. With our hilly location, use your best judgement as to whether you should attempt to drive to school. Your safety is most important. If you do drop off your child and it seems likely that driving conditions are turning for the worse, it is much easier for us to accommodate early departures than it is to staff late pick-ups. Alert our office 206-725-0780 that someone is on the way and we'll have them ready to go. Using the front door for these pick-ups, rather than the playground, will be appreciated.

- **WINTER BREAK** for school families begins this **FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 12. NO CLASSES WILL BE OFFERED.** Kids get an early start on a short vacation (and maybe a little snow) while the teachers and staff participate in a training session to make even better use of our new Reading and Writing curriculum. Winter Break continues through next week, Monday-Friday 2/15-19. Classes resume at 8:30am on Monday, February 22.
- **REMEMBER...** Puget Sound Energy will have a portion of 57th Ave S. blocked for repair work from S. Victor St. up the hill to S. Ryan St. from 9am – 3pm both this Wednesday and Thursday, 2/10 and 11. If you are driving pick-up in the afternoon, it may be best to avoid their work by using S. Renton Ave and then turning westbound on Ryan toward our playground entrance. We may have issues with PK drivers exiting. We'll work with them to mitigate.
- We've tried our best to get early warnings of **emergency delays and closures** out to you in multiple ways and as early as we are able. Obviously, the two times so far this year we've needed to cancel classes have been necessitated by last minute utility problems that were impossible to predict.

That said, with the varying forecasts for freezing weather the next few days, **PLEASE** always check your email or the notification bar at the top of our website **BEFORE**

heading to the campus. www.seattlestpaul.org As a last resort, we also try to update the phone answering machine. 206-725-0780.

We do all that we can to continue with a regular schedule on bad weather days, however with staff traveling from more remote areas and with our local hills, the default will be for the safety of them and your family.

As far as offering remote instruction on days when we are closed, since over half of our students borrowed a chrome book during our on-line instruction weeks - and those devices have now been returned - it is pretty much impossible for us to flip a switch for a very temporary situation. Thanks for your understanding.

- **The search for a new school placement is underway for many families.** Last week's meeting hopefully helped explain the important ways we are establishing to streamline the process so it not only reduces the anxiety on your end but also reduces the workload for staff both here at St. Paul's and at the receiving schools. Just to reiterate: There is no need to rush requesting this paperwork. The accepting schools know we are sending these in batches as we get their requests. You should, however, begin your search right away. Schools will begin accepting St. Paul-enrolled students ahead of their normal new applicants (and waiving the application fee) so you'll want to be on their list. All area Catholic school principals are working with us to help ease the transition. It is suggested that you look into more than one location as not all schools have open slots in every grade.

Your main support through this process will be Kristin Moore, our Director of Marketing for the Office for Catholic Schools. She has been designated as your go-to "conciierge" to walk you through the steps. We do not want anyone who wishes to remain in a Catholic school to feel abandoned. Her direct cell number is 206-475-7069 or she can be reached via email at kristin.moore@seattlearch.org

To help her assist you, she has created a short survey for families to complete so she can compile requests. Make sure you begin your quest using this [LINK](#).

Kristin also has a new colleague who will be working with her to match families. Supported by funds from the Fulcrum Foundation, Alana Bell, is the new director of the Becraft Scholars Program, an initiative specifically created to target under-represented families within our system. Alana can be reached at alana.bell@fulcrumfoundation.org.

For a link to Kristin's slides from last week's Zoom, click [HERE](#).

Wherever you do apply, also note that official records from St. Paul are sent ONLY via the school office, never through an individual teacher, and are usually sent directly to the school identified via a formal signed request for records. We will accommodate those requests as quickly as we are able – **PROVIDED that all fees and tuition accounts**

are up to date. Don't hesitate to contact Manny in our school office if you have fallen behind. He's here to assist you.

- **Catholic High School acceptance letters are out this weekend.** Congratulations to our 8th grade scholars who will be attending some of our best institutions. Remember, if you have any questions regarding a high school acceptance, please contact that school directly. They each operate independently and only their own admissions office can address your concerns.

NO NEWSLETTER NEXT WEEK. Since we'll be missing the beginning of our important season of Lent and the traditional Ash Wednesday liturgy, consider joining the parish observance with your family at either the 8:30am or 7:00pm Mass on 2/17.

Enjoy this much-needed break from the action with those you love!

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be the name 'Dan' written in a cursive style.

Dan