



September 11, 2020

Since 2001 it has been difficult to type that date above and not still remember vividly all the events of that day and the weeks that followed. Nonetheless, it helps frame a context for the anxiety and worry we have all experienced these past months. Knowing that even in our darkest times, God has sent His Spirit to be our companion, gives us permission to let go of our need to constantly be in control. I know that when I feel most alone, it is always when I haven't been open to that "fellow traveler."

- We've been able to assess just about every student's baseline progress in Reading and Math using our new **STAR evaluation tool**. This first testing window gives us some pretty useful indications of where we can begin with each child and their best avenue for growth. We'll continue to periodically use this assessment every few weeks during the year. Once we can establish a longitudinal progress graph over at least three windows, it can be very informative for parent-teacher conferences. Since it is a new tool for our staff here, give the teachers a couple of weeks to learn how to interpret and then we'll set up times to share. These STAR tests replace the longer periods of time taken out of the instructional day to administer the MAP test. MAP may return in the spring depending upon when we can finally get everyone back into the building.
- Speaking of STAR, I was very impressed to note that our small but mighty 8<sup>th</sup> grade boasts an extremely large percentage of young men who appear ready for an **advanced Math placement in Algebra**. As you know, an advanced Math grouping can only succeed when a student is not only adept at the previous skills but also developmentally ready for the more rigorous instruction. If these scholars can successfully complete a full year of Algebra here at St. Paul's, they will qualify for advanced placement in high school. Stick with it, guys! Don't let this golden opportunity pass you by.
- Yesterday, we announced a **VERY exciting development for First Grade**. Owing to the small number currently enrolled in our program and the results gleaned in last week's STAR assessments, we've been enabled to initiate a "jump start" as a particular way to provide basic instruction, especially for our high needs, at risk and underserved students. This means that our **First Graders will be able to join us back on campus beginning next Wednesday, September 16** from 8:30am until 3:00pm, just the same as we have been able to do with both PK and Kindergarten. Welcome to Nia Camilon, teaching assistant on loan to us from our sister school, St. George. Nia will be working directly with Ms. Hyder in Grade 1 to facilitate this transition. One more step back to "normal."

- As for the next phase, we continue to work with Archdiocesan staff to bring more grades back on site. As principals, we will join our superintendent in a joint meeting with King County next week. **All eyes are watching September 17** as the circled date for risk monitoring. If the numbers announced on Wednesday hold through that date, it should indicate that the Labor Day weekend gatherings did not result in a significant spike and we can move forward with reopening plans. It all goes to underscore the important responsibility that falls on each of us to continue doing all we can to reduce unnecessary transmissions by limiting non-family bubble contact, wear our masks and – most importantly – wash our hands! The sooner we can break the pattern of positive tests in King County, the sooner we can all get our lives back!
- With online instruction continuing in our other grades, we'll be sending out to you an opt-out form for your signature. While it significantly limits a student's ability to interact in the daily Zoom lessons, **should you NOT want your child to appear in the recording** of those sessions for absent students to review, you will need to return that form to us. All recordings are deleted 14 days after the lesson and are open to view only by those in the class. Watch for a link to that form.
- And please make sure you have reviewed the **student code of conduct** for online instruction that was sent your way a few weeks ago. We need everyone's help in making this the best possible experience. ([Begins on Page 3.](#))
- A few have asked, and to date, we do not yet have a plan in place for an all-school **Back To School Night** as we have done in the past. There are so many moving parts to putting an event like that in place and Covid distancing restrictions complicate that even more. In the interim, watch for information from your child's teacher for a smaller, hosted Q & A later in the month. It is important to us that we get you all the information we can in order to ensure we are working closely with you as we begin this year. With everything that is new, we ask your patience.
- You are invited to watch the live feed of Archbishop Etienne's Opening School Mass for all the schools in this archdiocese, next Monday, September 14 at 11:00am. The link can be found [HERE](#).
- And for those students still interested in band lessons, please note the attached information from Ms. McKamey! (Scroll down.)

"Strong, Loving and Wise!" All day, every day.



Dan

# Calling ALL Panther Band members! The Band Wagon is on!!!

Please fill out the important information form.

<https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=SuYVHvk4SEaBiwKb0K7BmDyWdlcj14lPly6wnu5tO79UNUhdMU04TzlTQzg3WUNNU01WUjZSNUFOUS4u>

Learning Platform: School Band (gr. 6-8) [www.flipgrid.com/06ba63ff](http://www.flipgrid.com/06ba63ff)

Beg. Band (gr. 5) [www.flipgrid.com/8210465f](http://www.flipgrid.com/8210465f)

**Check it out weekly on your own time!! Even Mrs. Fouki did it!!!!**

**Instrument Band Rental/September 19 at Kennedy Catholic High School. Reserved time for St. Paul - 2:30-3:15p.m.**

Questions? Contact Miss McKamey - [mckameyf@kennedyhs.org](mailto:mckameyf@kennedyhs.org)

Let's Do It!!

Miss McKamey

**Frances McKamey**

*Elementary Band Program Director*

**John F. Kennedy Catholic High School**

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