



September 18, 2020

In the first reading of this morning's Mass, Paul writes to the people of Corinth (who were facing doubt in their faith) about a New Resurrection saying, "If we don't have faith, there is no hope."

Since March 11, we've all gradually lost faith – at least I know I have – that we'll ever get back to life as "normal." This week, though, we were treated to a small glimmer of a "resurrection" when our First Graders walked through the doors for their first day back! It may have been smokey and cloudy outside, but those smiles really let the sun shine through. (It could have been the smiles of parents and grandparents FINALLY dropping them off, too!) A promise that better days are not too far ahead!

- With First Grade now here with PK and K, we can really begin to shake down our campus Covid safety procedures and prepare for the other classes to follow. All our archdiocesan principals and central office staff continue to have regular morning Zoom meetings to digest the daily state and county health briefings and determine our return plans. Next week, I'll be joining representatives from our closest sister schools to fine-tune our regional approach based on local infection rates and logistics. **At present, a return by the middle of next month is not out of the question!** Hopefully, I'll have good news to share in next week's newsletter.
- In anticipation of a return to class, it is helpful if families would consider **restricting contact with individuals or groups outside your immediate family** as much as possible. This "quarantining" will help limit unnecessary exposure and support our efforts to minimize contagion. We completely understand important or unavoidable family travel, however whatever steps each of us can take over the next few months to ride out this storm helps everyone stay safe. Thank you!
- We are instituting a Fast Track morning sign-in to **speed up the drop off routine** at the west entrance. Here is a [LINK](#) to a form for you to sign verifying that your child is free from any of the listed Covid-related symptoms. Signing the form one time for our file will record your pledge to monitor your child each day and never drop them off unless they are symptom free. This way, we can speed the kids into class – and you on your way - with just a simple temperature check and not ask for a new signature each day. A

kind of “pre-check” line like the airport. **This option does not apply to PK** as they are required by licensing to be signed in and out each day of attendance.

- As we begin to prepare for more drop-offs and pick-ups, it is good to review the [carpool pattern map](#). It is helpful to make sure that anyone who may be driving your child become familiar with the route!
- Another form...! **If you DO NOT want your child to be part of the Zoom recording** of a classroom lesson, you **MUST** return the form found at this [LINK](#). These recordings are saved for 14 days in our Zoom cloud and **ONLY** viewed by students who may have been absent from that lesson. After two weeks, they are deleted. By indicating your child not be Zoomed, their video is turned off and their audio is muted. It severely limits any interaction with the group and compromises the efficacy of the lesson, but it is your choice. These recordings are never placed in a public space.
- For your viewing of our regular **Thursday morning Mass**, use this parish [Facebook Live LINK](#). You **DO NOT** have to register for a Facebook account to view. The link may also be found at the top of our homepage.
- Many thanks to the Kessler Family and the Knights of Columbus for providing and stringing the **new flagpole halyard!** It makes a **BIG** difference. Next, we'll secure a brand new flag from our friends in Congress flown over the Capitol in D.C.!
- Reminder: If you child is in Grade 5-8 and you are interested in **Beginning Band**, the instrument rental is this Saturday, Sept. 19th at Kennedy Catholic High School! St. Paul's time slot is 2:30 - 3:15p.m. You will find them in front of the Goodwin Gym. Questions? Contact Frances McKamey, *Elementary Band Program Director*, **John F. Kennedy Catholic High School**, 140 S. 140th Street – Burien, WA 98168, mckameyf@kennedyhs.org, 206.246.0500, 206-957-9777 Voicemail.
- Admissions Information from **O'Dea High School:**

The health and safety of our community and applicants is of the utmost priority. Due to the circumstances of the COVID-19 pandemic, we have had to pivot and modify admission events and requirements.

Join our Mailing List:

Prospective families are encouraged to create a [parent portal account](#) to join the O'Dea Admissions mailing list to stay up-to-date on all things related to admissions.

Virtual Meeting:

Prospective families are invited to [schedule a virtual meeting](#) with Kristian Patterson, Director of Admissions to get your questions answered and learn more about O'Dea.

Virtual Open House: October 29, 2020 at 5:30PM

Join O'Dea students, faculty, and staff for a [Virtual Open House](#) to learn more about the [O'Dea Experience](#) and the Admissions Process.

Connect with a current O'Dea Parent:

[Chat with current O'Dea parents](#) to learn about their experience at our school! Ask questions, make connections, and learn what makes O'Dea unique.

8th Grade Visitation Day Program

O'Dea will not host on-campus shadow days during the 2020-2021 school year. We hope to invite families onto campus for private tours in the near future.

Admissions Exam:

In response to the challenges related to the COVID-19 pandemic, O'Dea has adopted a one-year admissions policy that waives the TerraNova Admissions Exam requirement for students applying for admissions in Fall 2021. This decision is not intended as a permanent admissions policy shift, but rather as a temporary measure driven by the current circumstances. No other materials will be requested from applicants in lieu of the TerraNova Admissions Exam. The O'Dea Admissions Committee will continue to review all applicants holistically.

Other Helpful Information:

- [Application Process](#)
- [Admissions Brochure](#)
- [O'Dea Website](#)
- [O'Dea Distance Learning Program \(eSchool\)](#)
- [The O'Dea Experience Video](#)
- Follow us on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), and [Twitter](#).

Please [contact Kristian Patterson](#) if you have questions or would like additional information.

- All Seattle Catholic High School admissions information can be found at this [WEBSITE](#).

Have a super weekend with your family! Go Hawks!

