



September 25, 2020

Dear Families,

The following note is from our Archdiocesan Schools Superintendent, Kristin Dixon:

*Earlier this year we announced that Catholic schools in high-risk counties would begin in a virtual format and those in moderate to low-risk areas could start the school year with small groups. We also announced that Catholic schools would follow the guidance from Governor Inslee's office and local public health departments. Since the impact of the coronavirus varies widely across the archdiocese, we believe this localized county-by-county approach is necessary to ensure the safety of our students, teachers, and communities. As Catholics, it is our responsibility to care for the common good and the vulnerable among us.*

*Moving forward, as I announced in the morning principal meetings, each school will continue to follow the guidance from local public health agencies regarding when and how to bring students back to campus. The Office for Catholic Schools will continue to support and offer guidance to each school since it must be grounded in the realities of the local community, i.e. size of school, number of students etc. We will continue to rely on the expertise of local public health officials. We encourage our Catholic schools to work together regionally with their public health departments to ensure the local coronavirus case count is taken into account before implementing any of their return-to-campus plans. While all schools miss their students and are eager to welcome them into classrooms, the safety of our students and staff and the care for the common good of the community remain paramount in all decisions.*

*Kristin Dixon*  
*#ignitinghope*

With this in mind, our staff is eagerly working toward a target date for bringing **Grades 2-5 back on site on Monday, October 12.** Should that re-entry go smoothly and the local infection rates remain positive, we would then hope to welcome back **Grades 6-8 on Monday, November 2.**

As Kristin mentions above, each school has unique challenges to address before we can move forward in confidence. Our particular facility and staffing size weigh heavily in determining our return dates and will also necessitate that we re-visit our original calendar in order to best meet both instructional realities and sanitation protocol. **A Return To School document** can be found [HERE](#). It is an attempt to bring you up to speed on what the new paradigm means for all of us and to answer a few basic questions. It will continue to be updated as we walk through this exceptional chapter together. For Back To School on campus supply lists, click [HERE](#).

- As reported last week, 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.
- Also, 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!
- 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.
- Our School Mass this Thursday, October 1, will also include the annual Feast of St. Francis **Blessing of the Animals**. During Mass, Father will offer a special blessing for all family pets – past and present. Students watching online will be invited to hold their pets high (if possible) during the blessing and any of our 1<sup>st</sup> Grade students on campus who will be with us at Mass are asked to bring a picture (photo or drawing) of their favorite pet or animal to be held aloft at this special time.
- If you missed the 5th grade **Band Rental at Kennedy Catholic High School**, it is not too late! Instruments, method book and supplies can be still acquired at A# Music Company/204 SW 43rd St. Renton. For all band members/parents - Instruction is in its second week! Have you:

- Signed-up on the online band form?
  - Visited the flipgrid site on a weekly basis? Instruction changes every Monday!
  - Questions? Contact Frances McKamey, *Elementary Band Program Director*, **John F. Kennedy Catholic High School**, 140 S. 140<sup>th</sup> Street – Burien, WA 98168, [mckameyf@kennedyhs.org](mailto:mckameyf@kennedyhs.org), 206.246.0500, 206-957-9777 Voicemail.
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- All Seattle Catholic High School **admissions information** can be found at this [WEBSITE](#).

Have another super weekend with your family. Sunshine still to come. Go Hawks! 3-0?

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'Dan', with a large loop at the start and a trailing flourish.