



FROM THE PRINCIPAL AND PRESIDENT

Dear Bellarmine parents:

We hope that this note finds you well – or as well as can be expected during these challenging times. We wanted to check in with you today with important updates.

Racial Justice

Earlier today, we sent [THIS LETTER](#) to our alumni, acknowledging that for some of our students, Bellarmine has not lived up to our own aspirations. We have asked our alumni to share with us their experiences so that we can learn and grow from areas where we have fallen short.

Similarly, Mr. Jiménez sent an email to our students this afternoon offering ways for them to talk with one another and process what they are thinking and feeling. Please encourage your son to read this important note.

We are parents as well and, if you're like us, you may be thinking about the best way to discuss these issues with your son. Some kids are deeply passionate and want to get involved somehow, some seem largely oblivious, others are confused or upset for a variety of reasons. We also recognize that these challenges are very different in different households. Both of us are white, and for many white parents, it can be very difficult to talk to our children about race, because we might not have done it very much. For many parents of color, these conversations have been going on for years, and there could be a sense of tiredness or very real fear that goes along with the conversations. As parents, it can be overwhelming to consider all of the resources available to us. One that you might find helpful is [TALKING ABOUT RACE](#).

Communication Plans

Throughout the summer, we will write to you weekly as a way to keep you updated on our plans. The two of us are the primary decision-makers, and we are doing so in consultation with other administrators, a doctor, our Board, and parents. While our task force consists of staff members, we will be bringing in parents and students at key moments for their input. Towards that end, we want to ask all parents to complete [THIS SURVEY](#) by Tuesday, June 9th. Thank you to the 500+ parents who completed our previous survey. The results told us that, if it is permissible, you are excited to have your sons return to campus in some capacity in August. Your input will help to affirm and shape our plans for a possible return to school in the Fall.

Here's an overview of our newsletters for June:

- June 12th School Finances
- June 19th Safety Protocols & Facilities Plans
- June 26th Comprehensive Plan for reopening

*Should county orders change, we may have to adjust our plans

Partnership

The key point that we want to underscore to you today is that we are in partnership with one another, and that partnership today is more important than it has ever been. We need you to tell us what is working and what isn't, what's realistic and what's not. We also need your help to stem the tide of this virus. The number one way to help make that happen – what we are going to require – is that sick students, faculty, administrators, and staff cannot come to school. We know that for many, they have come to school when they are sick. That's just not going to be possible this coming school year; in fact, if your child does come to school sick, we are going to send him home immediately.

We also recognize – as does our faculty - that the reason why many students come to school when sick is that if they don't, they'll fall too far behind. With the blended learning that we'll have up and running for this school year, students who are sick or symptomatic will be able to keep up with their work, even when they are staying home. Yes, it might mean that they miss a couple of days of being with their friends and teachers in person, but this is what being a "man for others" is going to look like this coming school year.

We also want you to know that we are working closely with county officials. We have been in regular contact with the county health department, and next week, are making two presentations to the County Board of Supervisors to help ensure that they understand our needs and that we advocate for the physical and social-emotional well-being of our students and staff.

We also are assuming that getting tested for COVID-19 is going to become a much more regular occurrence. We have both been tested in the past week through [PROJECT BASELINE](#) (not because we were symptomatic, just because the county has been wanting to get more people tested; we both tested negative for the virus). While the nasal swab is a bit uncomfortable, overall, the process was easy, safe, and free. If it makes sense for you or members of your family, we encourage you to consider getting tested as well.

As most of you know, today marks a change in the restrictions in place in Santa Clara County. These changes open the door, in a small way, to some co-curriculars to be able to meet in person this summer. Be assured that we are working diligently and rapidly towards that end, and that coaches and moderators will be in touch with the students with whom they work soon.

In the meantime, please know that we are available to answer any questions that you have or to hear your input. The bottom line remains this: we are committed to as much in-person education in and out of the classroom this coming school year as we can safely provide. Guided by county health and assisted by your input, we're confident that we'll arrive at a solution that will make for a great experience for your son.

GO BELLS!

Sincerely,

Kristina Luscher

Principal

Chris Meyercord

President

Catholic Jesuit Education Since 1851



#GoBells

CONTACT

SUPPORT

ALUMNI



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