

**July 31, 2020**

Happy Feast Day of St. Ignatius of Loyola! Today marks the day when the entire Catholic Church honors the life and the legacy of St. Ignatius, the founder of the Society of Jesus, more commonly referred to as the Jesuits. This is a very special day for Jesuits all around the world, and for all of us here at Bellarmine.

Thank you to those parents who were able to join us at one of our parent coffees earlier this week. We appreciated having the opportunity to meet in a virtual way with a number of you, and to address some of your concerns. You can view the recordings of the coffees here: [CLASS OF 2024 PARENT COFFEE](#); and the [ALL PARENT COFFEE](#).

One of the most common questions we received was about socialization for students – especially for freshmen who might be coming to Bellarmine without knowing anyone. We are keenly aware of this concern, and are working to do all that we can to address it. One important advantage we have going into this year is the addition of an 8th class period for a student's Cura class. “Cura” is short for “cura personalis”, which is a Latin phrase meaning “care for the individual.” It is a hallmark of Jesuit education, and something that we will be attending to even more explicitly this year.

Freshmen Cura classes will continue to meet in their Ignatius and Loyola sections. These sections of 12 or 13 students will be led by one or two faculty members, with help from big brothers – junior and senior students who are dedicated to make the experiences of the freshmen with whom they are working as positive as possible! These small groups, which will meet regularly, will not have homework, but instead will provide students with chances to get to know one another, discuss topics that will aid their transition to high school, and understand better the norms and expectation of Bellarmine. In short, it will be a great way to introduce them to the “brotherhood” that is such an important part of what we do. Some freshman parents also asked about your son's counselor assignments. Those alphabetically from Zac Affinito - Justin Kim are with Miriam Fasoli, and those alphabetically from Zack Knudsen - Ethan Zuo will be working with Rick Ruddell.

Sophomore to Senior Cura classes will not meet quite as regularly, but still will be an important vehicle to allow students to connect with their counselors – both personal and college – and to form relationships and points of connection with classmates and teachers.

Additionally, as we have shared with you previously, we will be seeking out opportunities to bring students to campus during the early part of the year to the degree that we can do so safely and with the permission of County Health. More information about that will come shortly, including details about freshman orientation – still scheduled for August 14 – and chances for all students to come to campus in the first week or two of school to pick up supplies they may need.

One of the most appreciated adjustments we made to online learning in the Spring was the transition to a later start. Given that the first quarter will be virtual, we are able to have the school day start with the first class at 9 a.m. You can review the new daily schedule [HERE](#).

We also wanted to share with you that the Diocese of San Jose is putting together a Town Hall Meeting to discuss racism with the young people in our Diocese. If your son is interested in attending this event, which takes place next Friday, August 7th, from 6:30-7:30 p.m., please have him register at [THIS LINK](#).

As always, please know that you can reach out to either of us with questions or concerns at any time.

Sincerely,

Chris Meyercord  
President

Kristina Luscher  
Principal