

Dear Parents,

On Monday, we will be welcoming our new faculty and staff members for a few days of orientation, prior to welcoming all of the faculty back (virtually) with a Mass and meetings that start on Wednesday, in anticipation of freshman orientation taking place next Friday, one week from today.

As you know, this start of the school year has a very different feel than has any in either of our careers. By this time we usually are seeing lots of Fall sport athletes on campus engaged in their early-season preparations, Big Brothers are coming to campus for their training, and faculty are getting their classrooms setup in preparation for welcoming their students. This year, while most of those things are still happening, it's tougher to see as we walk across campus. But what remains true is how devoted our faculty and staff members are to ensuring that your sons have the best experience possible. Many faculty and staff members have been collaborating and learning this week and next about how they will structure their virtual classrooms in such a way that maximizes the learning, sense of community, and enjoyment that are so essential to your son's success.

Mass of the Holy Spirit We wanted to let you know that we look forward to starting this school year in the same way as we always do – with the Mass of the Holy Spirit. We had originally planned, along with the Mothers' Guild and Dads' Club, to enjoy a Get Acquainted Mass and Barbecue next Sunday, August 16th. Since circumstances won't allow that this year, we wanted to invite all families, if you are able, to join us for our Mass of the Holy Spirit, which will be streamed live on Monday, August 17th from 8:30-9:20 a.m. We will send you and your sons the schedule for August 17th, and a link for the Mass, in next week's newsletter.

It is a tradition in Jesuit schools around the world to begin the school year in this fashion, when we ask for God's blessing in all that we do. We are profoundly aware of how much we need that blessing on what we do this year. We face real challenges, and yet we do not face them alone. We face these challenges in "a community, gathered by God", as the first words of our Mission Statement read. We provide that community for one another, and rely upon each other to provide the academic, emotional, and spiritual support that is needed to get through these challenging days.

The students are all required to attend the Mass on the 17th, and we hope that parents will be able to join with us as well. If you can't join us live, we'll share with you a link so that you can view the Mass at a later time. We recognize, of course, that many families do not come from the Catholic tradition. We believe that our diversity as a school community is one of our greatest strengths, and we welcome families of all faith traditions to join with us in this start to the school year. A practical note for all: Helpdesk, our IT support team, will write your son at his Bellarmine email address this weekend with some instructions on how to make sure he is all set in terms of technology for the start of the school year. Please ask your son to check his Bellarmine email by Monday. A note for Class of 2024 Parents: Next Friday, August 14th, is Freshman Orientation! The schedule for the day will include an optional, in-person element where your son can come to campus in a small group to meet his Big Brothers and other members of his Cura class, get his student body picture taken, and receive a quick tour of

campus. Look for an email tomorrow from Bellarmine about the one hour time slot to which your son has been assigned.

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.

As we all prepare in earnest to begin the school year, please know that we are praying for all members of our school community – students, faculty & staff, and families – on a daily basis, and we humbly ask that you would do the same.

Sincerely,

Chris Meyercord
President

Kristina Luscher
Principal