

Dear Parents,

We are writing to you today with an important update about Bellarmine's plans as we navigate our way through the COVID-19 pandemic. As you may be aware, Santa Clara County moving to the "red tier" in the new state color-coding system presents the opportunity for schools to resume some in-person activities if we remain in that red tier at least through next Tuesday (9/22).

While we are all anxious to get students back to campus, we want to proceed cautiously and systematically in the weeks ahead. Therefore, we have developed a phased approach to our reopening plan. Our original HyFlex model, designed in May and June, limited the number of students on campus, but still requires a fair amount of mixing of different groups – both for students and for staff. While some mixing is allowed in the red tier, the strong recommendation of the County has been to reduce mixing as much as possible. To achieve this limited "mixing" of students, we have developed the following interim phase as we work towards fully implementing the HyFlex plan in January:

- A two-week pilot program will begin on Wednesday, September 23rd (if the County remains in the red tier).

A small number of students and courses will be offered on campus. We will notify families with students in these pilot classes by this Wednesday, and in all cases, parents will have the opportunity to decide whether or not their son will participate. The pilot will follow the original "HyFlex" model where half of the students are present, and half of the students are learning remotely, following the Ignatius/Loyola rotation. The students would have one class offered in person, and if they don't have a free period before or after the in person class, they would have the ability to complete one other class on campus (from their computer), so that they would have time to get to or from campus during the lunch hour.

This pilot program will allow us to learn more about the HyFlex instructional approach and our campus safety processes. At the conclusion of the pilot, we will evaluate the experience and look to either end it, continue it, or expand it.

- Many students – as soon as the air quality improves enough to allow for outdoor activity – will have the chance to be on campus for athletic conditioning. Other athletic conditioning outdoor activities will be added soon, and, if we remain in the "red tier", the County will permit non-athletic co-curricular activities to begin in person. We hope to get some of those activities started by the end of this month, with more to follow.
- We plan to offer the SAT to our seniors on October 14th. The PSAT and pre-ACT will be administered to our sophomores and juniors during the second semester (contingent upon the County COVID-19 data remaining the same or better).
- Second quarter (Beginning October 19th) assuming the pilot goes well, we will transition to more on-campus, in-person opportunities for students (still at the discretion of parents), but the **majority of instruction will remain online**. After internal consultation with our

staff, review of parent feedback, and dialogue with the County, we have come to the determination that this is the most prudent way forward for the school. It will enable us to maintain high quality remote instruction while offering on campus experiences for students.

We are in the process of developing what these opportunities might be. For example, we are looking at fitness and health courses taking place outdoors on campus; some Physics 9 labs taking place outdoors throughout the quarter and some CSP service opportunities occurring after school. Our plans will take into account the transportation challenges that come with students coming to class for limited periods of time. We are also looking to maximize outdoor spaces and to develop meaningful opportunities for students to be together while social distancing. It is important to note that in each one of these phases, masks would be required at all times. The only exception to this is when students are actively engaged in outdoor exercise, during which they are allowed to remove their mask, provided they maintain adequate social distancing.

Thank you to the many parents who responded to our survey last week. Your responses have made clear to us that there is a strong desire to have your sons return to campus, even if only for a limited period of time.

We know that you will no doubt have questions about these plans, and we are here to answer those questions for you. Towards that end, we want to invite you to a virtual parent coffee that the two of us will host on [FRIDAY MORNING AT 8:15](#). We will record the coffee and share the link with you afterwards. While you will have a chance to ask questions via the chat feature during the coffee, we strongly encourage you to [SUBMIT YOUR QUESTIONS IN ADVANCE HERE](#), to make sure that we can answer as many of those questions as possible during our presentation.

Prior to the start of the pilot program next week, we will send out information about safety precautions and requirements for those on campus, what steps we will take if there is exposure to someone with COVID-19 on campus, and to address additional logistical questions that we know you have.

Thank you for your trust and partnership during this time, and we look forward to seeing many of you on Friday.

Sincerely,

Chris Meyercord
President

Kristina Luscher
Principal