

Dear Bellarmine parents:

We are writing to you today with an important update about our pilot program, and our plans for second quarter. Overall, we are very pleased with how well the pilot program has gone, and as a result, we are happy to let you know today that we will be significantly expanding our offerings in the second quarter.

The pilot program's 16 sections offered an opportunity to come to campus to roughly 400 students. Beginning on October 19th, we will be offering more than five times as many courses on campus, meaning that greater than 75% of the student body will have the chance to take one or more courses in person on their Ignatius or Loyola days. Additionally, we are continuing to expand the co-curricular offerings available on campus. Finally, we expect more classes to be added over the course of the second quarter, while other courses will have a few designated class meetings that take place on campus, such as a science lab.

Unfortunately, due to the great amount of variation within student schedules, not every student will have a class in person. We are working now to identify who those students are, and to make opportunities available to them. We understand that you are anxious to know what the particular situation will be for your son, and we will provide you that information as quickly as we can, which will be by the end of the day on Monday, if not sooner. You'll then have next week to let us know if you intend to participate in person or not.

An important part of our pilot program has also been assessing what the experience has been like for those students whose class is meeting in person, but who have decided to remain at home. A survey we have conducted over the course of the past week has indicated that students in that situation have continued to experience the same high-quality education as they did prior to the pilot beginning. This has been very important to us, because we know that there will be a significant number of students who choose to remain home even if they have a chance to come to campus.

Through all of this, our two priorities have remained the safety and well-being of our students, their families, and our staff, along with continuing to provide an excellent Jesuit education. We are proud to be leading the way among our local Catholic high schools here in Santa Clara County, and demonstrating how students can safely come back to campus. This next step in our return will cause there to be more mixing between students, but still not as much mixing as is entailed in the full HyFlex model.

We are pleased that there has not been any COVID-19 spread on campus that we are aware of during our pilot program or during our co-curricular offerings. We hope and pray that will continue to be the case, not only as we expand offerings here on campus, but also as restrictions are further lifted in the county, which could occur next week, and could result in higher rates of infection in the area.

Thank you for journeying with us, and we look forward to seeing more of your sons in the second quarter.

Sincerely,

Chris Meyercord
President

Kristina Luscher
Principal