



Parent e-news

Bellarmino, as a Catholic college preparatory school in the Jesuit tradition, through dedication to academic excellence and development of the whole person, graduates young men and women of competence, compassion and conscience, who are committed to leadership and service.

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Message from the President: Update on Decision Process for In-Person Instruction

Dear Lion parents and guardians,

Like you, we are all anxiously looking forward to the opportunity to welcome our students back in person. I want to take a moment to update you on our decision process and timeline for returning students to campus and transitioning to in-person instruction under our 'hyflex' model.

Our decision for when to transition is based on two groups of metrics. The first is comprised of public health data on the current state of COVID risk in the community. We base our assessment in this area on the data provided daily by the Tacoma Pierce County Health Department (TPCHD). Per state and local guidance for school re-opening decisions, there are four key numbers we are watching:

- *Number of confirmed COVID cases per 100,000 over a 14-day period - as of this morning, Pierce County is at 57/100K, roughly in the middle of what is considered the "Moderate Risk" range (25-75 cases);*
- *COVID test positivity rate - currently at 2.5% (Goal: <5%, stable or decreasing);*
- *Percentage of hospital beds occupied by COVID patients - currently at 5.1%, relatively stable (Goal: stable or decreasing);*
- *Number of new COVID cases per day - currently at 44.5, increasing over the past week (Goal: stable or decreasing).*

Unfortunately, after stabilizing for about two weeks, several of these numbers have begun to tick upward in the past week. While I believe we are generally fairly solidly in the 'moderate risk' zone and likely to remain so for the immediate future, these will bear watching and we continue to monitor them daily.

The second set of metrics we are watching are internal, tracking our preparations for a safe return of students. In addition to the modifications to instruction and co-curriculars, these include facilities and technology modifications, cleaning protocols, health and safety policies, and reporting protocols, as well as logistical considerations such as lunch service and bus transportation. Extensive work has been done in all of these areas, thanks to great effort on the part of our facilities and IT staffs, and the school administrative team. We have many of these pieces in place already, with the remaining items near completion.

Under these conditions, TPCHD is permitting high schools, particularly private high schools without associated primary or middle schools, to begin moving towards return to in-person instruction under a hybrid model.

The metrics and internal preparation level are reviewed weekly by the Principal's Advisory Council and an assessment forwarded to the President's Executive Council for review and decision. We are committed to providing the community with two weeks advance notice before the first day of students on campus, so both families/students and faculty/staff have time to prepare and make adjustments.

In view of the overall trend in both sets of metrics, **it is my intent that by next Monday, October 5 we will be able to announce our provisional timeline for return to in-person instruction.** This means the most likely window for us to make the transition to 'hyflex' will be in late October or early November.

As we prepare for transition to a full 'hyflex' model, we are beginning our process of re-engaging students in small groups for co-curricular activities such as athletics and drama beginning as early as next week. Details for specific activities will be provided by head coaches and activity directors.

I recognize that some may find this timeline frustratingly slow, while others may find it alarmingly fast. Please know that we are committed to carefully working through the preparation process and timing our reopening decision to ensure a smooth transition and safe environment for continuous in-person instruction. Remember also that your role, and that of your student, is essential to the success of this model. Please encourage your son or daughter to comply with social distancing and masking requirements, wash hands frequently, and stay home if they are unwell.

Our focus is to make the transition to hybrid learning as efficiently as possible. To facilitate this transition, Principal Davis will continue to provide [weekly community updates](#) through our Parent E-News format. Information regarding attendance and health screening protocols, transportation, lunches and parking will also be shared in the coming weeks.

Let me close by thanking you all again for your patience, cooperation and support as we have adapted to the challenges of the times. I also want to share with you how deeply grateful I am for the extraordinary effort our faculty have made to continue to serve our students in distance mode, and to prepare themselves for the 'hyflex' model. Our goal has been to ensure Bellarmine continues to be a positive experience for you and your child, in spite of the challenges COVID has thrown in our path. I know this next transition will challenge and test us in new ways, but I remain confident we are well positioned to serve our mission and you, our community, even in the midst of change and uncertainty. I am thankful for your support, and look forward to welcoming your child back to our campus as soon as safely possible.

Sincerely,

Robert Modarelli
President

Message from the Principal: Preparations for Returning to Campus

As shared by our President, Rob Modarelli, we are following the metrics from TPCHD. We are hopeful the numbers will allow us to move into our comprehensive Hyflex model. In the meantime, our faculty continue to engage in professional development, and we continue to prepare our campus for the return of students and faculty. Our goal is to transition thoughtfully and safely.

In this letter you will find:

- [Definition of our Hyflex Model](#)
- [Response to the recent survey](#)
- [Safe Return Plan Updates](#)
- [Health and Safety Plan Presentation Dates](#)

[Read the full letter](#)

Safe Return Plan Update

Due to the uncertainty around COVID-19, Bellarmine faculty anticipated and trained to teach in different models during different "phases" over the course of the year. Even now, as we prepare to soon pivot from 100% Distance Learning to a Hyflex model, faculty continue to explore best practices to ensure a continuum of instruction while maintaining the appropriate rigor for a college preparatory school. Our instructors worked throughout the summer to determine the best approach for their discipline and course(s) and will design lessons accordingly, building upon priority standards, learning targets, and course objectives.

[Click here](#) for more details on preparations to pivot to the Hyflex model of instruction:

Co-Curricular Opportunities

We are excited to announce that starting Oct. 5 Bellarmine will be offering limited in person coaching for students in "pods" of 5. Coaches will be communicating with players this week about in person opportunities, so it is important that students reach out to their coaches to be added to the distribution list for each sport. Access to campus will be limited and not all student athletes will be allowed on campus for every potential workout and strict protocols must be met prior to coming to campus and while engaging in workouts. Participation in these workouts is completely voluntary and will have no bearing on participation in that sport during the WIAA defined sport season. Coaches will still be engaging with students virtually with workouts and other opportunities. If you have any questions, contact Kevin Meines at meinesk@bellarmineprep.org.

- [Co-Curricular Contact Information](#)
- [Weekly Schedule for Athletic Engagement](#)

FamilyID Registration

[FamilyID](#) is the online registration portal for all co-curriculars at Bellarmine. All families need to create a FamilyID profile for athletic clearance, retreat registration, morning transportation requests, and all other co-curricular [registration](#).

Questions, contact Kristine Zelazny at zelaznyk@bellarmineprep.org.

Academic Support and Acceleration

Please be sure to check your son's/daughter's academic progress via Family Link as early progress is being reported. Early indicators of success include:

- Regularly attending classes via Zoom, etc.
- Actively engaging in classes
- Submitting work on time
- Completing asynchronous work
- Promptly reaching out to faculty with questions/concerns
- Keeping an effective planner/calendar system
- Managing emails/communication
- Navigating class Moodle pages

Please take a few minutes with your son/daughter and review the [Guidelines for Distance Learning](#). Together, determine what is going well and what areas need improvement. Thank you for your ongoing partnership.

[Academic Support/Learning Resource Center Information](#)

New Parent Meeting with President Modarelli

If you are a NEW Bellarmine Parent, with a Freshman or new transfer student, we invite you to a conversation with our President, Robert Modarelli B'82. You will have an opportunity to hear in more detail about the mission and philosophy of Bellarmine, its strategic plan and direction, and the experience you and your family can expect as you become members of this great community. He will be joined by leaders of Bellarmine's Board of Directors as well as our primary parent volunteer organization Philomatheia, who will also share information on ways you as a parent can become involved and engaged in the school and in the experience of your son or daughter as a Lion. You will have an opportunity to meet other new parents who are embarking on the same journey. Finally, there will be a time to ask any questions you may have. These special evenings are a great way to begin a partnership between your family and Bellarmine that is so important to student success.

To join us for one of these virtual meetings, please register by using the links below.

We will be hosting each meeting through Zoom Video Conference call from 6:00 p.m. until 7:00 p.m

Wednesday, September 30th, 2020

[Register Here](#)

Tuesday, October 13th, 2020

[Register Here](#)

Monday, October 19th, 2020

[Register Here](#)

These virtual zoom meetings are for new parents and guardians only. For any questions or concerns, please contact Paige Banks, at 253-761-3522 or banksp@bellarmineprep.org in the Development Office.

From the Lion - Bellarmine's Student Journalism Program

The Lion student journalism program features weekly online articles. Here are two recent ones

- [Student Athletes Discuss the WIAA Schedule Rearrangement](#)
- [Coronavirus Divides Generations](#)

Autumn Yearbook Photos

This year's yearbook will truly be a Bellarmine Community efforts. In order to capture the moments and memories, of this school year, in our 2021 yearbook, the staff would love for you to share your photos with us. We are currently looking for AUTUMN photos of students and faculty, Senior Pilgrimage, St. Robert Bellarmine mass, and students and faculty in your favorite mask.

Please submit your [photos here](#) to be consider by clicking on the link. If you have any questions, please email Mindi Morin at MorinM@bellarmineprep.org.

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