



Parent e-news

Bellarmine, 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: Further Update on Decision Process for In-Person Instruction

Dear Lion parents and guardians,

I had hoped to be able to have a clearer picture today, but unfortunately after a period of relative stabilization two of the key public health metrics we are following have continued to track upward in the past 2-3 weeks. We are still in the high end of the 'moderate risk' zone and while it is possible we could level off and remain so for the near future, there is also the likelihood that we could re-enter the 'high risk' zone within a week. We are continuing to track these numbers daily and assess their impact on our decision regarding implementing the 'hyflex' model. I currently believe the earliest window for us to make the transition will be in early November, provided the current COVID metric trends stabilize or decline. If we re-enter the 'high risk' category, it is possible we may need to delay that timeline further.

Under these conditions, TPCHD has warned schools that this trend 'is an early indicator that we will ask schools to return to remote learning' and is encouraging schools to 'pause bringing back additional students for in-person learning.'

We are attempting to provide stability for families and students, by making any transitions deliberately and when we have a high degree of confidence they will last for at least a couple of weeks. I am committed to ensuring we do not become stuck in a cycle of repeatedly transitioning back and forth between 'hyflex' and distance learning, as we feel this would be even more disruptive to students, families and teachers.

What I can tell you is this:

- We are committed to returning to in-person instruction as soon as we feel we can safely do so
- At a minimum we want to see all the county metrics at a 'moderate risk' level with a stable or downward trend for a reasonable period of time (2-3 weeks);
- We are planning to give two weeks notice from the time we announce to the first day of in-person instruction.

In the meantime, we are beginning to engage students in small groups for co-curricular activities such as athletics, and will work creatively to bring students back as possible. Our Principal Cindy Davis will continue to share information on the implementation of our programs in her weekly updates. As we begin this process, you will receive details on specific activities from head coaches and activity directors.

I know this is frustrating for many of you as it is for us, as we are both anxious to have students back in the classroom. I appreciate the desire for more precise timelines, deadlines or dates. However given the rapidity with which the local COVID situation can shift, it would be irresponsible to commit to a date we cannot guarantee we can keep. I can only ask that you continue to work with us to support your child's growth through distance learning and the limited in-person contact we can provide until the situation stabilizes, as it inevitably will. We continue to rely on traditional Christian virtues of patience, fortitude, and hope, while preparing ourselves to do our part as soon as conditions permit.

AMDG,

Robert Modarelli
President

Message from the Principal: Update on Hyflex Preparations

My weekly letter is an important way to remain connected to you and your family. We hoped to provide a timeline to pivot to the full Hyflex model by now, but the number of confirmed cases of COVID-19 in Pierce County are increasing. We remain committed to the safety of our students and employees and so we wait for better news from TPCHD.

The focus of this letter is on our continued preparation for full implementation of the Hyflex model. In this letter you will find the following:

- Health and Safety Plan updates
- Wellness Check reminder
- Purpose of cohort gatherings
- Student transition update

[Read the full letter](#)

Co-Curricular Opportunities

We are excited to announce that starting today, 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.

Tuesday, Oct. 13, 2020

[Register Here](#)

Monday, Oct. 19, 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 banks@bellarmineprep.org in the Development Office.

PSAT/NMSQT Wednesday, Oct. 14

We will be offering the PSAT/NMSQT (National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test) to your student on campus on Wednesday, Oct. 14. This is the main national day for this test. Because of health department guidelines for social distancing and our own staffing and space requirements, we have made the decision to only provide this test to juniors. In past years, we have given this test to both sophomores and juniors, and it has counted toward the National Merit Scholarship for juniors only. For sophomores, it has just been an additional practice opportunity. Both the College Board and Khan Academy (as well as several other test prep books and sites) offer full length practice SAT tests - many for free. Here is a link to such a practice exam from [Khan Academy](#).

We would encourage sophomores to take advantage of these opportunities if they would like additional practice. We do not provide and have not provided the PSAT 9/10 or PSAT 10. Please note these [PSAT Test Day Protocols](#).

Picture Make-Up Day: Friday, Oct. 9

AL – 8:30 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.

M/Z – 10:30 a.m. – 12:20 p.m.

MASKS are required at all picture days.

For more information contact [Kristine Zelazny](#)

Volunteer Opportunity

St. Francis Cabrini is looking for volunteers to help with their homeless shelter. All volunteers would go through training and follow COVID-19 protocols. If interested, please contact Donna Monroe:

donna@monroe549@gmail.com or (253) 954-7095.

Lions Baseball 2020-21

Parents and Players of current and incoming Bellarmine Prep baseball players -if your son has interest in trying out next spring and/or potentially playing some fall baseball please get in contact with Chris Jackson. Contact him to be added to the current roster distribution list. Once the all clear has been given, junior and senior players will organize all who are interested in workouts

Please call, text or e-mail him at 253-548-7946 or c.j.jackson@comcast.net.

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