



March 12, 2012

RE: Graduation – 2012

Dear Graduates and Senior Parents:

We recently were informed by the Tacoma Dome Management of a potentially significant disruption to our graduation ceremony. We have been in numerous conversations with them and, at this time, we need to adjust our starting time from 12:00 noon to **11:00 a.m.** on Sunday, June 3<sup>rd</sup>. Let me explain:

The grand opening of the LeMay Car Museum is scheduled for Friday, Saturday and Sunday of our graduation. The museum is expecting 20,000 for the weekend and while no specific activities are currently scheduled for Sunday, planning is still going on and is out of our control. The museum opens at 9:00 a.m. and, at this time, the museum has reserved the parking lots west of the Dome on Sunday which have been Bellarmine's usual parking lots for graduation. The Tacoma Dome Management has agreed to reserve the east back parking lots for us exclusively up to a half-hour after the start of graduation. We will devise a parking permit to distribute to your families signifying attendance at graduation. The normal cost of parking is still in place.

While we have no way of knowing how big a draw this will be, one can assume that with good weather, Sunday could be a mess with just getting to the Dome if we wait until noon. An 11:00 a.m. graduation requires graduates to be at the Dome by **10:15 a.m.** which I suspect gets all of us into the facility before the museum crowds arrive.

I know this change affects some morning plans for church or breakfast, but I hope with this notification, other arrangements can be made. If you bought graduation announcements, an insert card will be provided with the correct graduation time of **11:00 a.m.** instead of 12:00 noon; but otherwise, I hope this time change doesn't impose hardship on you or your extended families.

More information will be forthcoming about parking plans as well as the opportunity to visit the museum since we're right next door (I'm working on a reduced entry rate). I do want to state that the Tacoma Dome Management has been as helpful as possible in trying to accommodate our graduation needs. I will keep you all posted as we move forward to this important graduation and now museum "grand opening" weekend.

Sincerely,

Chris Gavin  
Principal