



June 5, 2020

Looking to the Future

Dear Students and Parents:

“I have competed well; I have finished the race; I have kept the faith” (2 Timothy 4:7). We have indeed come to the end of this most unusual school year, and I want to thank all of you for embodying the aforementioned verse as we endured a complete paradigm shift in education. The entire community, students, faculty, and parents demonstrated remarkable resilience and adaptability as we were forced to move our school online.

2020 has so far been a historic year of both natural and social calamities. First the pandemic forced us to shelter in our homes and then later, from those homes, many of us watched the George Floyd tragedy and the unrest that has gripped our country in its aftermath. Earlier this week the administration emphasized CBA’s Catholic foundation and Lasallian mission in the context of that tragedy and subsequent movement calling for change. It further saddens me to witness some of these demonstrations erupt into violence and criminal activity, thereby creating more victims and clouding the original tragedy and calls for reform. This too is unjust and does not respect all persons, and it also must be condemned. We add to our prayers the innocent victims and families affected by the violence of the unrest. Let us pray for peace and healing in our country; physical healing from the virus, mental and economic healing from the lockdown it caused, and reconciliation and social healing in our society after exposure of its divisions. May we “keep the faith” as we head into summer that through God’s grace we can persevere, return to our campus in the fall, and educate our young men in a way that enables them to make a positive impact on the world.

Yes, we are expecting to return to campus in some way, shape, or form this coming fall although there has been very little information or guidance from the state at this point on how that might be allowed. There does seem to be an appetite at the state level for getting kids back to school, but also a number of obstacles. Some officials believe that schools will open in a "modified" fashion, which likely means fewer kids in classes and school buildings at any one time or changing schedules to reduce hallway traffic and large gatherings, in addition to all occupants wearing masks. There is a chance that we will open normally, and we are certainly hoping for that, but we are also preparing for several eventualities. In addition to looking at how our regular schedule might be modified to reduce contact, we are developing a hybrid approach of in-person and online instruction, as well as a new fully online plan in case of a flare up. Experts agree that it is important for the social and emotional health of children as well as their academic progress, to have kids physically in school. With this in mind along with the possible necessity of a reduced capacity, our hybrid plan might look like alternating



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days with half of our students physically in school each day. For example - Group 1: Mon, Wed, & every other Friday/ Group 2: Tues, Thurs, & every other Friday; allowing 12 desks per classroom, all 6 feet apart. We will also be prepared with a further evolved distance learning plan to go from there to a fully online period, hopefully only for a couple weeks at a time though and then back to the hybrid. We have already researched and are now testing technology to facilitate these possibilities and have identified set ups that would provide a number of options. Furthermore, we have begun ordering sanitizing stations for each classroom and other disinfecting supplies to provide a safe environment. Again, we hope to be able to open normally, and there are some indicators that we may be able to, but we aim to be prepared to bring students back to campus in some way if our regular schedule is not allowed.

Similarly, we are beginning to plan for modified athletics and activities. Performing arts has already had online master classes, music lessons, and awards ceremonies. Pegasus Productions is researching small cast plays and some of our clubs, like FBLA, Model UN, and Mock Trial are planning to participate in online competitions and programs. You may have heard that non-contact youth sports and summer programs can begin soon and we are watching that closely. The National Federation of State High School Associations (NFHS), of which the NJSIAA is a member, is starting to put out return-to-play protocols. We will likely have sports activity in the fall, but there may be several "phases" before competition resumes if it can at all. Our own CBA Athletic Director is on the NJSIAA COVID-19 Sports Advisory task force that is working on this.

In order to best serve our community your feedback is important; we ask that you please complete the appropriate parent or student survey – click the link that follows to begin.

Parent Survey – <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/3TJRHXP>

Student Survey – <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/3LKVWSK>

More information will be coming to you throughout the summer as the state releases its rules for opening schools and we solidify how CBA will continue to educate young men in the Lasallian tradition. I pray for the health, safety, and well-being of all our CBA families throughout this summer. I also pray that you have the opportunity to find peace and enjoyment during this break from school. The early months of 2020 have certainly been a stressful and tumultuous time. I feel blessed to be part of this strong CBA community, which provides support in these difficult times, and I again thank you all for your cooperation. God bless you.

Sincerely,

R. Ross Fales