



CHRIST THE KING
CATHOLIC SCHOOL + DALLAS



Dear Christ the King Parents,

We hope this message finds you and your loved ones safe and healthy, as we look forward to seeing you during pick up next week. It is surreal to realize our Crusaders have been physically apart since March 11, rendering our campus so quiet at a time it would otherwise be the vibrant place of learning and physical community that means so much to us. We were all thrown into something unexpected, requiring us to make major adjustments to protect public health in the face of this novel pandemic. This has not been an easy transition, and we thank all of you for your understanding and steadfast sense of community that we were on this journey together.

In times such as these, it is important to remember that God is with us and continues to guide our path. We are reminded of the Road to Emmaus passage from Luke's Gospel: "Now that very day two of them were going to a village seven miles from Jerusalem called Emmaus, and they were conversing about all the things that had occurred. And it happened that while they were conversing and debating, Jesus himself drew near and walked with them, but their eyes were prevented from recognizing him. He asked them, 'What are you discussing as you walk along?' They stopped, looking downcast. One of them, named Cleopas, said to him in reply, 'Are you the only visitor to Jerusalem who does not know of the things that have taken place there in these days?' And he replied to them, 'What sort of things?'" As the Gospel continues the apostles ask Jesus to stay with them and in these trying times we to must invite be Jesus to continue to walk with us on the journey ahead. Just as their eyes were opened, so too are ours when we trust that we are not alone.

If a few months ago someone tried to explain to us what was about to take place, even drawing on our wildest imagination we would not have believed them. We now share a common experience that will be remembered in history books and taught to future generations. It is difficult – heartbreaking even – to be apart and forced to postpone important year-end traditions, such as Living Stations, First Communion, May Crowning, baseball, soccer, track, PSIA, Camp Learn-A-Lot, Field Day, Step It Up Day, 8th Grade Farewell, Baccalaureate Mass, and on-campus Graduation. But we are a strong and resilient community. We will get through this together and we will come out stronger on the other side.

In the meantime, we have many positive messages to share with you.

First, **thank you** to our incredible students, faculty, parents, and families for mobilizing to execute our collective mission to educate the hearts, minds, and spirits, of our Crusaders. Despite physical distance, we have persisted to innovate and adapt to instruct, support, and spiritually nourish our sons and daughters. We have been so impressed with the strength and flexibility of our families throughout the transition to e-learning. Our exceptional faculty will continue professional development over the summer to enhance pedagogical skills and opportunities to continue to offer the best for our students.

Next, we are thrilled to **welcome** our new Crusader families! You are joining a wonderful community, and we are delighted to hopefully welcome you in person soon.

Congratulations to Monsignor Zimmerman on retirement! We are so grateful for Monsignor Zimmerman's leadership, guidance, trust, and compassion over the last 26 years. He helped lead CKS to recognition as a Blue Ribbon School of Excellence. He has masterfully shepherded us through amazing accomplishments and tremendous tragedies. His sense of humor lit up the church as he interviewed saints and scholars on All Saints Day. His popularity and love of sacraments made Reconciliation, First Communion, and Confirmation beloved memories that CKS students cherish. We will miss his stories about being a quarterback at Jesuit, a baseball outfielder, and a track star. Monsignor Zimmerman's belief in the value of Catholic Education and sharing our Catholic Social Teachings were critical in advancing our Crusaders Care philanthropic initiatives. Because of his tireless efforts, Monsignor Zimmerman leaves us well positioned. When it is safe to do so, we look forward to celebrating in person Monsignor Zimmerman's incredible legacy and contributions to CKS.

We also **congratulate** two of our exceptional Crusader faculty who will be retiring: Mrs. Bonnie Larsen and Mrs. Molly Schroepfer. Mrs. Larsen and Mrs. Schroepfer have inspired generations of CKS students and we deeply appreciate them for their service.

Thank you to the CKSPA and outgoing President, Mrs. Sissi Jorge for her leadership and reminding us the importance of **Joyful Hearts**. We welcome incoming President Mrs. Erin Kidwell and her leadership theme that we face challenges as a CKS community - **Together with Love**.

Thank you to our Annual Fund Committee and its Chairs, Mr. and Mrs. Jeff and Jana Lovejoy, for your efforts in facilitating a successful 2019-2020 Annual Fund campaign, which provided important funds to support the school and its mission.

Turning to the **2020-2021 school year**, the school administration is actively monitoring the health status of the novel coronavirus. The situation is evolving, and we must prepare for various versions of what returning to school may look like. While we have a timeline for our students return to campus, rest assured we are preparing for the alternative scenarios if we need to return to periods of E Learning. The school administration is working closely with our task force committees (Academic Validity, Health and Safety, Financial Vitality, Catholic Identity, and Communications) to develop processes, protocols, and practices as part of our commitment to community health and safety.

We are reviewing school operations, including classroom transitions, lunch procedures, visitor and hallway protocols, pick-up and drop-off procedures, health screening, personal protective equipment, field trip procedures, and more. We will continue to update our CKS families as developments emerge, via the CKS News, our COVID-19 response website, and the Spiritual Resources website.

Thank you for your continued patience during this time, as well as your passion, partnership, and support. We could not be prouder of the way our community has demonstrated its dedication, strength, and unity during this unprecedented challenge. If there is anything that we can do to help, please contact us.

We close with a heartfelt **Congratulations** to our outstanding CKS Class of 2020 on Graduation! Although you are the first class to finish virtually, you are also the first class to pioneer the NASA and New Orleans trips. I remember visiting your class around Christmas during my first year at CKS, and one student exclaimed, “Dani your dad is the principal? I just thought he brought you stuff every day.” It has been an honor to be here for your Reconciliation, First Communion, Pines, Confirmation, sports, DI, Taos, and other important moments. Hold your CKS memories and friendships close to your heart as you share an experience unlike any class that has gone before you.

Our prayer for you:

May the road rise up to meet you. May the wind be always at your back. May the sun shine warm upon your face; the rains fall soft upon your fields and until we meet again, may God hold you in the palm of His hand.

God Bless each of you and know that you always have a home at CKS for *once a Crusader, always a Crusader*.

Dr. O’Sullivan and Dr. Bosco