



August 6, 2020~6 de agosto del 2020

Greetings families,

As you may have heard, yesterday Governor Inslee issued strong recommendations for schools as they plan their reopenings this fall. At this time Inslee does not recommend in person instruction for any school in any county that is considered “high-risk.” Please read the [statement from the Archdiocese of Seattle Office for Catholic Schools](#), as it outlines that all Catholic schools will be following these recommendations at a minimum standard.

Our mission at Holy Family is one of community, collaborative learning and positive relationships. As a dual immersion school, we prioritize settings that facilitate language learning and interpersonal connections. We fully intended to start in person and have been working hard to do so. Unfortunately, during this unprecedented time, we have to heed the advice of professionals to ensure the safety of our community and do what we can to stop the spread of the virus. Because King County is considered “high-risk” we will not be able to have all students back in their classrooms and students K-8 will begin the year remotely. We do intend to have all students back in the building as soon as our county is in the “moderate-risk” stage, which could be as soon as the first week in October. As soon as it is safe, according to the department of health, we **WILL** have our K-8 students back in the building. Until then, we are looking into providing extremely limited childcare for essential workers and services for students with exceptional learning situations and will continue an in-person preschool and pre k program for our 3-5-year-old learners.

Parents, we know this news is defeating. According to our survey, 72% of families intended to have children return **in person** this fall and we are aware that this will pose great challenges for childcare, home life and, our biggest concern, student social emotional health. Along with a reopening plan, which we hope to implement in the early fall, we have also been working on a more robust distance learning plan that takes into account feedback from students, teachers, parents, the Archdiocese of Seattle and OSPI. At this time we are planning:

- Daily attendance and prayer
- Increased synchronous learning where students have access to teachers while they complete work
- A weekly schedule outlining all synchronous (in-person) and asynchronous (do on your own time) assignments.
- Increased instruction and support for both Spanish and English learners.



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In addition to increasing a focus on learning remotely, we are planning on in-person meetings and small group learning sessions. These sessions will be limited to 3-4 learners, will take place outside and will serve as an opportunity not only to create positive first impressions and relationships, but also for the teacher to be able to assess each individual students' level so they can help them grow. We will begin these sessions on September 4 and 5 as originally planned and our remote learning will begin on September 8. We will be sending our revised remote learning plan and more specific information on these optional small group learning sessions within the next two weeks. We thank you for taking the time to provide feedback on what works for your families.

This beginning of the school year is not what we had hoped for, but we will continue to work together through these challenging times. We understand that this news may come to a shock to students and please let us know if we can support you in communicating this to them. At Holy Family, we feel that this decision is for the greater good and out of love and respect for our extended community and world. We pray that students can exhibit patience while learning resilience. We know that this too shall pass and are comforted by Psalm 22:19, "But you, Lord, do not be far from me. You are my strength; come quickly to help me." Please join me in praying for the continued health of all of our community and that we can all continue to do what we can to prevent the further spread of the virus.

In Christ (and fully masked!)

Ms. Temme