



# PENINSULA CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL



July 27, 2020

Dear PC Families:

Greetings from Peninsula Catholic! I hope this letter finds you well during these unusual times. As you all are aware, we are prepared to open the doors to PCHS in August. We will have a bit of a different first week in order to train students on all the new health and social distancing protocols. Entering our 117th year in Hampton Roads, PCHS will come alive once again with students, faculty, and staff as we strive to fulfill the mission to “develop young men and women into spiritually, intellectually, and morally mature citizens, prepared to lead in a global and diverse society.”

And, as we begin our journey together this year, it is my great pleasure to introduce several new additions to PC’s staff and faculty who have been led to become a part of the PC family:

**Mr. Connor Edgington**, who will be joining the theology department  
**Ms. Renee Minella**, who will join our Development team in marketing  
**Mr. Vance Nannini**, who will be taking over our physics, earth science, and engineering courses  
**Ms. Theresa Nystrom**, who will be teaching in the math department  
**Mr. James Stanley**, who is eager to restart the band program  
**Mr. Dan Wenner**, who will join the social science department

We are also pleased to announce that **Mr. John Jackowski**, Athletic Director, is excited to teach a new course in Sports Management.

Since March, most of our efforts have been spent on finishing a school year virtually and then gearing up to create a plan for the new school year. It was a challenge, but one that PC was up for. If for some reason you missed it, here is the link that announces and explains in detail the [Reopening Plan](#).

With that plan in place, we are also cognizant of the fact that at any time, an Executive Order from Governor Northam could turn schools on their ear again and require a 100% digital education. However, most of you know that we are prepared (even more so than last March) to provide a Distance Learning Program that works. This is evidenced by the confidence seen in our parents from the diocesan survey sent out in June, as well as our excellent AP scores. While the majority of the AP curricula was delivered through our digital platform this spring, our results were impressive. In 2-D Art and Design, PC students scored 100%. In comparison to the national averages, our students scored 18.6% higher in Calculus, 10.7% higher in English Literature and Composition, 16.9% higher in European History, 21.4% higher in Macroeconomics, and 18.5 % higher in United States Government and Politics. Congrats to our AP students and teachers!

While we hope not to return to solely digital instruction--we know we will do it well. We have even further enhanced our ability to connect with students who may choose to learn from a distance by adding new hardware (such as cameras in the classroom and bluetooth mics for faculty) and also investing in new digital teaching tools to reach out even more effectively to all our students both on campus and at home.

While all this has been happening, there have been some improvements in the school. This includes a lot of painting and cleaning and deep sanitizing, along with setting up classrooms and flex spaces. Thanks to Coach Tommy, Mr. Pacheco (Mr. Frank to our students), and our new custodial team from Legacy Commercial Services.

And now, here are a few reminders as we finish out the summer:

Tuesday, August 4, is **New Parent Orientation** at 5:30 PM. You may join live or via Zoom. The live meeting will include temperature checks, social distancing, and wearing masks. You will be sent a link for this meeting next week. For our **newest knights in grade 9**, if you have not signed up to receive your chromebook, Thursday, August 6 is the last opportunity before school begins. Remember, it is imperative that freshmen receive their chromebook in order to be enrolled in “PC Digital Bootcamp,” their online summer course that must be completed prior to the first day of school! During the first week of school, each junior’s current chromebook will be replaced with a brand new touchscreen. Our 8th graders will also receive their chromebooks on the first day of school. **Returning freshmen** (last year’s 8th graders) may begin picking up their chromebook on August 3 at the main office. No appointment is required.

All students in grades 9-12 should be working on their **Christian Service Project** slideshow (grade 9) or video (grades 10-12). Student service hours form and accompanying assignment will be submitted by September 8 through their homeroom class. Students registering after August 1 will have an extension.) For clarification on this, see the [Summer Information Guide](#). If you have any questions or concerns, please contact the Campus Minister, [Mrs. Adinaro](#).

All students will be expected to have their **textbooks** by the end of the first week of school (preferably earlier). [BNC K-12](#) (formerly MBSDirect) is offering free shipping from August 3-9 on qualifying orders. Students should also be in full compliance with the **dress code** by the first day of school. [Lands' End](#) is our uniform supplier for grades 8-12. Gentlemen needing ties for Forum Dress days may purchase one from the School Store (located in the library) for \$30.

The **Student-Parent Handbook** is still being updated to reflect all the new policies and guidelines related to the reopening plan but will be able to be found online at [www.peninsulacatholic.org](http://www.peninsulacatholic.org) under both the "Parent" and "Student" tabs by August 17. Students and parents must confirm on August 28th (first full day of school) that they have read the **Student-Parent Handbook**. Outside of digital learning policies and new guidelines related to reopening, changes this year are minimal. That being said, if you haven't reviewed the whole handbook in a while, it may be very helpful to do so. We find that some of the areas where misunderstandings most often happen include the following:

- Attendance (Especially approval for **any** absence over one day AND procedures for pre-arranged absences)
- Dress code expectations--particularly shaving for males; skirt length for girls; hair coloring and piercings for both
- Tag Day guidelines and guidelines to "Dress Up" from Forum
- The importance of reading *Knightline* weekly and checking the school website (especially the calendar) regularly for updates

Be on the lookout for an email from Mrs. Padilla, Administrative Assistant, who will send you directions next week to **review or update your FACTS Family Online account**. This is vitally important for new families, but many of our current families have missing or outdated information that they may not realize. On each orientation day, students will receive information on student insurance, Canvas, after school supervision, volunteer background check, and a form that must be returned regarding **Technology and Internet Acceptable Use Policy (AUP), Student-Parent Handbook, Media Release**. If this form is not returned on the first full day of school, August 28, your student will not be allowed to attend class.

Tutorials about **Canvas**, which parents use to access student assignments and grades, are located on the Parent page of the Website. To access the parent page, you should use the same account information used when you enrolled via FACTS. If your Canvas parent account is not activated, your student's teachers cannot communicate with you from Canvas nor can you monitor your student's progress.

#### **Zoom Meeting Wrap-Up and Survey:**

Thanks to all the parents who participated in our Zoom Reopening Plan meetings. Your input and questions were very helpful. We will continue to refine as the weeks go along, but any major changes will be communicated. Also, your overwhelming appreciation for the time and effort spent on this plan by our Task Force has been very gratifying. Thank you! You will be receiving another email this week that includes the following.

1. A survey requesting your preference for your student(s)--virtual or on-campus instruction (for initial planning purposes only--you will be asked to make a final decision the week of August 17)
2. A link to the recorded Zoom Meetings for each grade level
3. A list of FAQs that came up during the parent Zoom Meetings

#### **Important Upcoming Events:**

- August 1--**Used Book and Uniform Sale**, Sponsored by Home and School, 10:00AM-12:00PM--Please see this week's Knightline for more information
- August 4 --**New Parent Orientation** 5:30 PM; This will be an informal informational meeting with time to ask questions.
- August 6 -- **Math Placement Testing** 9:00AM; **Chromebook Distribution** 10:00 AM and 1:00 PM; **Book Sale Pick-up**--10:00 AM-12:00 PM
- August 7--**Official Senior Portrait Day**  
You should have already received information from our new photography vendor, [Hayne Photographers](#) and an email from the school on July 21. If you have any questions about the session, please contact Hayne Photographers at (757) 201-7973.
- August 11--**Final Book Sale Pick-up**--6:00PM-8:00 PM
- August 19 --**Welcome Back Mass** 6:00 PM followed by a **dessert party** for ALL families (social distancing, temperature checks, and masks required); To help us plan for Mass and dessert, please take a moment to [RSVP for Mass/Dessert Party](#).

#### **First Week of School:**

As mentioned in the reopening plan, the week of August 24 will include a staggered start by grade level to allow for student training on new policies and guidelines. Students will also walk through their schedule, to include lunch (pre-ordering will be necessary and more information will be coming out next week), and meet their teachers. Even if your student is starting virtually, if at all possible, it would be beneficial if they attended this one day orientation in the event that they return to on-campus learning at any point in the future. Students will be expected to be in their regular M-F uniform.

- Monday, August 24, 8:00-3:00; Grades 8 and 9--Entry Point, Knights' Athletic Center (8th graders will also receive their chromebooks)
- Tuesday, August 25, 8:00-2:00, Grade 10--Entry Point, Side Entrance by Chemistry lab
- Wednesday, August 26, 8:00-2:00, Grade 11--Entry Point, Main Entrance (juniors will receive their chromebooks)
- Thursday, August 27, 8:00-2:00, Grade 12--Entry Point, Main Entrance
- Friday, August 28, 7:45-2:20, First Official Day of School--All students enter and exit at their entry point

Recognizing this is a lot of information, please feel free to call the school at any time for any assistance you may need. Again, I cannot express how delighted the administration, faculty, and staff are to work with all of you for the success of our students and our school. Enjoy the rest of your summer.

Sincerely,



Janine C. Franklin, Ed.S.  
Principal

