



November 15, 2020

Dear parents and guardians,

Thank you for your continued partnership and communication as we have navigated the many challenges of the first semester. In particular, we are grateful for the trust you have placed in our school to care for your students and provide them the best educational experience we can at this time. Thank you, as well, for your collaboration with our faculty and staff, who continue to work tirelessly on your students' behalf. Living through this COVID-19 pandemic has not been easy for anyone, but we have seen many wonderful examples of the members of our school community remaining united and supporting one another as *men and women for others*.

We are writing to announce a change that will once again rely on the strength of our community to adapt and work together. Due to the number of positive COVID-19 and quarantine cases in our community as well as the risks associated with increasing positivity rates in the Denver Metro area, we have decided that **Arrupe Jesuit will transition to all-remote learning beginning next Monday, November 23, for the remainder of the semester**. This means that, beginning with Thanksgiving week and continuing through the week of semester exams (December 14-18), we will not hold in-person classes or exams.

The coming week (November 16-20) will be an extremely important time for us to work with your students to prepare for this change. As you would expect, we will follow our current weekly schedule this week, where students attend their classes one day in person. We will use that in-person day for teachers to prepare students for the remainder of the semester (including how online exams will work), for students to receive all of the supplies they need to complete their classes successfully (including technology support), for our staff to plan for the remaining weeks of the semester, and for all families to plan for changes in child care, transportation, etc.

Please note: **The semester is not over. The mode of learning is just shifting.** It is very important that students finish this semester successfully. Our college-prep curriculum already places high expectations on students, and by now we all recognize that the online environment presents additional challenges. Nevertheless, students must complete their classes this semester to remain on track for progressing through our curriculum. To do so, they will need a stable internet connection at home and to follow the same daily class schedule we have been using, as opposed to taking additional hours at outside jobs or extensive child care responsibilities.

## WEEKLY SCHEDULE WITH THREE DAYS OF SYNCHRONOUS ONLINE CLASSES

Beginning Monday, November 23, we will follow this weekly schedule through the end of the first semester:

	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
9th Grade Freshman	At home: Synchronous class	At home: Synchronous class	CWSP: Workday or asynchronous training	At home: Synchronous class	At home: Asynchronous class and/or mandatory study hall
10th Grade Sophomore	At home: Synchronous class	CWSP: Workday or asynchronous training	At home: Synchronous class	At home: Synchronous class	At school: Some clubs and individual meetings
11th Grade Junior	CWSP: Workday or asynchronous training	At home: Synchronous class	At home: Synchronous class	At home: Synchronous class	CWSP: Monthly rotating workday
12th Grade Senior	At home: Synchronous class	At home: Synchronous class	At home: Synchronous class	CWSP: Workday or asynchronous training	

You will note that your student's in-person class day will switch to a synchronous online class day. This means he or she will now have three synchronous class days per week. For those days, we will continue following the 7-period bell schedule we recently implemented, which has 50-minute classes and brief breaks during the day. Students are required to attend synchronous classes "live" from home throughout the full duration of the school day (8:00am to 3:30pm), just as you would expect on a normal day in the building. A parent or guardian should continue to contact the Main Office (303-455-7449 x1) to communicate about any attendance issues.

We are extremely proud of our teachers, who have restructured their curriculum multiple times to accommodate changes in our schedule this semester. Amid all the uncertainty of this time, they have remained steadfast in their commitment to your students. Their focus right now is on supporting each student's successful completion of the semester. Now more than ever, we need students' cooperation in this effort. As Mr. Paradise and Mrs. Davila announced in their letter on October 1 (<http://bit.ly/Dean-Letter-Oct-ENG>), we have instituted several schoolwide expectations to ensure the effectiveness and safety of our online classes. These include finding a productive environment at home to log in for classes, arriving on time and remaining engaged throughout class, responding to the teacher when called upon, setting aside video games and cell phones to stay focused on class material, and adhering to the school's code of conduct. Please click on the link above to access the full list of expectations. We ask all parents and guardians to review these expectations with your student to prepare for this transition to remote learning.

Fridays will remain in the asynchronous format we have seen this semester. Please note that Friday is still a school day, and students must complete the class work their teachers assign on those days. There should also be time for students to have individual online appointments with teachers and staff, and it may be possible for our staff to do some targeted, in-person work with students on a limited basis. To support students who are struggling academically, we will continue our current rotation of mandatory Friday study halls in an online format. That is, students will be expected to log in for the study hall online. After Thanksgiving, Ms. Schifano and Mr. Paradise will distribute more information about the procedures for online study hall.

## **CORPORATE WORK STUDY PROGRAM**

CWSP workdays will continue in the format we have used for the past couple weeks. Students who do not have a current CWSP placement will remain at home on their workday, as they have done since November 2. On those days, students in grades 9-11 will continue their asynchronous job skills training, which supports proficiency in Microsoft Office. Seniors will continue to work with the College Counseling office on their college and scholarship application processes. Students who have a current job placement will work individually with the CWSP staff to determine how the remaining weeks of the semester will look for their jobs.

## **PASTORAL PROGRAM, ATHLETICS AND STUDENT ACTIVITIES**

This transition to remote learning will also change how our other programs look for the rest of the semester and during Christmas break. Our Pastoral program will continue to prepare student leaders for upcoming retreats in the second semester, we will invite students and families to join us online for a bilingual Mass during Advent, and we will continue to offer the sacrament of Reconciliation in-person during specific time slots and by appointment.

Many student clubs and activities have been meeting online throughout this semester; these opportunities for online participation will continue. Some groups that have met in-person will switch to online meetings, while others that require in-person contributions will utilize in-person meetings in smaller groups (under 10 persons). Mr. Lovinguth and Fr. Fryer will work with student leaders and faculty moderators to decide on an appropriate schedule for each group.

For athletic teams, pre-season practices will meet once more this week (Monday, Tuesday or Wednesday) and then will be discontinued through Thanksgiving. Further information for the remaining weeks of the school year will be distributed after the holiday weekend, based on guidance we receive from health officials. Practices may likewise be held over Christmas break, once again based on current health guidance. At the moment, we are planning for the basketball seasons to begin tryouts on Monday, January 4, 2021.

## SEMESTER EXAMS

As was noted above, semester exams will also be taken online. Our school policy is that students must complete their exams to receive credit for their classes that semester. This means that students must be present online and on time for each exam and must be entirely focused on the exam for the entire time period. In the next couple of weeks, Mr. Paradise will distribute the exam schedule. Students should plan to take their exams beginning Monday, December 14 through Thursday, December 17. Make-up exams will take place on Friday, December 18.

In conclusion, we recognize that this is a great deal of information to process and thank you for your attentiveness to all the details outlined above. The complexity of this transition is why we need to make good use of the coming week to prepare. Please take some time as soon as possible to discuss and anticipate all the changes involved. Please also make sure that, if your student has been attending in-person classes, he or she should do so this week for the final time this semester, since we will dedicate time to helping them navigate this transition successfully.

We also want to be available to you to respond to any questions or concerns you may have. Please note that Ms. Estefany Hernandez ([ehernandez@arrupemail.org](mailto:ehernandez@arrupemail.org)) will be hosting Families Together meetings this week at the following times:

- Tuesday, November 17 at 9:00am (<https://bit.ly/2GTZuD9>)
- Tuesday, November 17 at 5:00pm (<https://bit.ly/2IyV7y6>)

These parent/guardian meetings will have a large amount of time set aside for Questions and Answers. Please join us for the meetings using the links above. Finally, please also continue to use [info@arrupemail.org](mailto:info@arrupemail.org) to communicate with school administrators.

Thank you for continuing to partner with us in all these efforts. May our loving God offer us all a wellspring of grace and encouragement as we work together to continue serving your students to the best of our ability. May God continue to bless you and your families with strength, wisdom and joy, especially during the upcoming holiday season!

Yours in Christ,



Michael J. O'Hagan  
President



Fr. John Nugent, SJ  
Principal



Richard Ninneman  
Director of CWSP