



Fairfield College Preparatory School

A Jesuit, Catholic School of Excellence

August 13, 2020

Dear Fairfield Prep Community,

Greetings and peace from Fairfield Prep! We hope this message finds your families well and safe after the recent storm and challenges of the summer. The Fairfield Prep leadership team has been working tirelessly to plan for a safe return to campus this fall. We have been in dialogue with parents, faculty, students, alumni, fellow Jesuit schools, and health professionals. In short, we have been blessed to have many thoughtful and expert voices in our review and conversations.

Our leadership team has also listened carefully to directives from the State of Connecticut, the CDC, and the Fairfield University reopen task force. Moreover, we appreciate having direct lines of communication with the Town of Fairfield Health Department.

At Fairfield Prep, our Catholic and Jesuit mission compels us always to place care of the individual person (*cura personalis*) above all things. During the COVID-19 pandemic, the national standards for care in school must focus on the following:

- 1) Providing students meaningful, in-person learning whenever possible
- 2) Social Distancing (minimum of 6 feet—more distance is better)
- 3) Universal Wearing of Masks
- 4) Lowering Density of School Buildings and Classroom Cohorts
- 5) Caring for the Most Vulnerable Among Us

In light of these standards and Prep's mission to care for every student and adult on our campus, it is our plan to utilize the following initial format for reopening in September:

PREP Edge: Daily, Live, Face-to-Face Learning & House System

At Fairfield Prep, especially in these times of pandemic and challenge, our “**EDGE**” is **Engaged, Daily, Guided Education** rooted in the Jesuit, Catholic tradition.

- ✓ Daily Classes: Classes will meet daily, live and face to face within our weekly block schedule.
- ✓ House System: Fairfield Prep will be divided into two houses with the school population divided in half alphabetically. **Loyola House** and **Ignatius House** will each attend class on campus during alternating days to lower density in our school buildings and allow us to meet and exceed health guidelines for cohorts and physical distancing (e.g. Monday: Loyola House attends class on campus with Ignatius House learning from home. Tuesday: Ignatius House attends class on campus with Loyola House learning from home).

- ✓ Virtual Zoom Classrooms & Teaching Excellence: Every class at Prep will be available daily via Zoom with state-of-the-art technology that allows teachers and students to interact live and face to face. **Prep's flexible format allows us to continue daily instruction without interruption in any of our learning models.** Our talented Prep faculty have been attending summer professional development to enhance their already flexible teaching methodologies, and to continue the excellence you have come to count on at Prep.
- ✓ Illness and Vulnerable Populations: Due to our robust technology infrastructure, any student who experiences illness, who is required to quarantine at home, or who falls into a vulnerable category will have the option to learn from home on a daily basis.
- ✓ Athletics & Co-Curriculars: Prep is following the CIAC guidelines for fall athletics and we are hopeful that distancing and best practice will allow your sons to compete. Prep will also continue to offer its rich array of mission-based co-curricular clubs and Campus Ministry activities either live or virtually.

As we work in this highly fluid and changing dynamic, we will be posting regular updates to our FP Reopen web page with FAQs: www.fairfieldprep.org/reopen. As always, we invite your feedback and concerns as we enter into this uncharted water for our school community.

Please note: Prep reserves the right to modify or switch learning models at any time based on updated health information from the state, regional or local authorities, and/or any changes in the area communities we serve. We thank you for your patience and incredible support in these times of challenge for all of us.

We are scheduling an **FP Parent Town Hall Meeting** on the evening of **Thursday, August 20 at 6 p.m.** We look forward to reflecting with you as a community on important aspects of Prep's reopen plan. The Zoom link will be forthcoming.

As parents of school-aged sons and daughters and lifelong Ignatian educators, we walk with you as companions on this journey and pledge our full and undivided attention to the education of your sons in our Jesuit, Catholic tradition.

Please stay tuned for frequent updates and important information as it becomes available on our website and webpage www.fairfieldprep.org/reopen. God bless your families and the Fairfield Prep community in this time.

With respect and peace,



Mr. Christian J. Cashman
President



Dr. Tommy de Quesada
Principal