



A Catholic Tradition of Excellence in College Preparatory Education

Dear Hartley Families,

As we look forward to starting our year, we want to assure you that we are keeping our mission statement at the forefront of our minds: *Transforming lives through the teachings of Jesus Christ within the Catholic tradition*. While Bishop Hartley has six pillars, it is the pillar of “faith” that remains at the helm of everything we do. Considering the inevitable for next year, our faith will be more important than ever as we navigate these challenging times.

Hartley takes a holistic approach when it comes to the well-being of our students and community, and 2020-2021 will be no different. To support the spiritual well-being of our students, the House System and Campus Ministry will work closely with one another to provide ample opportunities for students to encounter Christ and grow in relationship with him as well as engage in prayer together. As the Gospel reading from several weeks ago reminded us, Jesus calls us to put our burdens on him “and you will find rest for yourselves” (Mt 11:25-30). Hartley will do our best to help our students participate in prayer opportunities, faith-based activities, the Sacraments of Reconciliation and Eucharist, and retreats throughout the school year.

House System:

Our House system will continue to focus on three guiding principles established more than ten years ago when we first instituted our six houses:

1. Mentoring and relationship building among students, teachers and faculty
2. Strengthening the Bishop Hartley community by building unity within each house
3. Developing leadership skills in all students

In order to do this, the House Deans and the House Director are concentrating efforts on these three guiding principles to develop activities and enriching experiences within safety guidelines. Below is a list of aspects our House Deans and House Director are working on to continue the growth of our house system:

- **Mentor Groups** will continue with activities focusing on group development while also highlighting each individual. Moreover, smaller groups will be established to continue our peer to peer and teacher mentoring.
- **House Group Activities** will be organized in a safe manner to build unity within each house.
- **House Days** will be organized into smaller group activities that will continue to center around our school pillars and provide creative opportunities.
- **House Leader Selections** were in the process when we left school in March. To prepare for the upcoming school year, House Deans were asked to choose a rising senior and junior to represent their house on a leadership committee. Over the summer, this committee has been organized into six groups to focus on activities centered on a specific school pillar. As we enter the school year, we will be selecting additional house leaders. We will communicate how that process will work with each house.
- **Service** will be run through house service projects in a healthy and safe manner. As mentioned in the July 2 communication, we are not mandating our 25 hours per year requirement this year.

Faith formation is an essential component in our House System. We will be working with campus ministry to develop activities and opportunities for our students to enrich their spiritual life within the house system.

Campus Ministry:

The campus ministry team, along with the religion department, is working on new and innovative ways to bring students closer to God in the coming school year. Deacon Frank Sullivan and Campus Minister Tera Chun are excited to welcome newly ordained Father Michael Fulton to Hartley next year, along with Ms. Rachel Dues, who will be helping with retreat programming. With a priest available on campus, we are hoping to increase access to

the Sacraments, and with another person to generate creative ideas for retreats and help with planning, we are hoping our retreat program grows and is even more effective. Right now, the team is working on:

- New schedules for liturgies
- Incorporating social distance policies in the chapel and the gym during prayer services, Mass, Reconciliation, and Adoration
- Creating a three-tiered plan for all retreats which includes both social distancing and virtual plans
- Working with students and faith-based clubs on creative ways to live out our faith on campus
- Exploring various avenues to expose Catholic spiritual practices such as Liturgy of the Hours, the Rosary, Stations of the Cross, Novenas, the Divine Mercy Chaplet, Journaling, Lectio Divina, the Examen, and Praise and Worship to students.

Both the House System and Campus Ministry are dedicated to making next year a year rich in faith. With an “all hands-on deck” approach to providing faith-based opportunities for students, we hope that the 2020-2021 school year will be one in which students can grow into their faith and use their relationship with Christ to help them during challenging times. As a Catholic school, we are dedicated to keeping Christ at the center of all we do and look forward instilling a pillar of faith in our Hartley students this coming school year.