

Principal Report to Advisory Council January, 2020

1. Happy New Year to everyone! The second semester has started well.
2. I received notification of our school's first "legacy gift," a generous bestowal by Mr. Jim Oates, a parishioner at Christ the King. He is endowing a stock mutual fund that should be able to provide 40 to 60K each year for the purposes of financial aid. As part of the gift, we may not use the principal for buildings or other school needs—it must go strictly to help families with financial aid. I was honored to speak at his funeral, and I tell the story about how we got to know each other and why this meant so much to him. You may [read about it here.](#) He's a generous guy!
3. New enrollments for next year are very strong. We have currently accepted 90 students into the freshman class, and it is not likely we will take any more than 95. It's only January! We have sent out the registration agreements. To secure a place next year, these 90 must send in a registration fee of \$250 and a signed registration agreement. Returning students must also pay and sign an agreement, though a few weeks later. It is likely we will have a waiting list for freshman and possibly for junior year by early to mid-Spring. Our budget for next year assumes 340 students, which is close to our maximum.
4. We sent out over 500 tax letters for those who gave to St. Michael during the 2019 school year—just another indication of our community's generosity. Those went out Friday, January 19, 2019.
5. We're taking 80 kids to the March for Life Trip in Washington, D.C. next week. That does NOT include another 50 who are going up with Christ the King and St. Lawrence youth groups. I'm going up with our kids, as are 4 other full time faculty members and some volunteer parents. There is a very strong pro-life sentiment in our students—partly, I believe, because of this experience each year. It's a powerful witness to our kids to see 250,000—300,000 other kids protesting in the name of human life!
6. Our band is playing in the Crewe of Columbus parade on February 21, 2020. Mark Laird, our new band director, is preparing our students for that, as well as getting them ready for district competitions later in the spring. Make plans to come—all three Catholic high schools will be there!

7. Our faculty met on January 3 to discuss long term planning. I created a summary of their ideas and will be working with the Planning and Policy committee to put together a draft set of suggestions for our long term plan in time for the April meeting.

8. Looking at things from a more short term perspective, I asked our four administrators—Paul (athletics), John (student life), Kathy (finance) and Jenny (admissions and advancement) to do a brief review of 2019 and address a few goals for 2020. Of particular interest is Paul’s plan to improve our athletic program as we look ahead to playing at the 4A level next year. I ask you to read though these reports, [available here](#).