

Principal Report October 2020

1. It's been a **challenging first quarter**. At peak (or valley?) we had 100 kids distance learning. Of those, 15 were optional, 56 were because of one person with Covid in our football program (so the team was quarantined for two weeks and had to forfeit two games), and 29 were because of one student who adopted Covid, so we had to do a "close contact" search for all students who sat next to this student in class and keep them at home. So two cases yielded 85 students home for two weeks! Fortunately, both groups are now back in school, and only 10 students have asked to do distance learning for the second quarter. Happily, first quarter grades were pretty good. Things are calmer now, but as I've said to the students, we're all standing on the edge of a cliff, with our arms locked together. If a few of them fall over, we're all going over with them! We're not done with this pandemic yet!
2. The contractors for the field house tell us they'll be finished by 12/31/2020. They had originally scheduled 12/1, but Hurricane Sally backed up subcontractor schedules, forcing our contractor to push it to the end of the month. They've made remarkable progress over the last ten days—it's going to be a wonderful facility. The **dedication date** has now been re-set for **Thursday, January 21**, confirmed with the Archbishop, who will preside for a **school Mass c. 10:30 a.m. and then the dedication ceremony thereafter**. I am happy to say that the field house will be dedicated to the memory Rusty Cowles, the ten year old son of Terri and Gary Cowles, who was killed in an 4 wheel drive accident on December 17, 2016. Rusty would have been an 8th grader at CTK this year, and a member of the Cardinal class of 2025. Please come to this—it will be very special, I believe.
3. The Strategic Plan, called "**Vision 2025**," will be mailed out to current families and donors around November 10. My thanks to all of you who were part of this. In discussions with Lad, we've decided to mark the February calendar of the Council meeting as our annual "audit" of the strategic plan—what have we implemented? What haven't we done yet and why? Is this still something we want to do? In this way, the plan becomes a living document, and the advisory council will be able to monitor its progress to completion.
4. As noted last time, we had some **hurricane damage**. Nothing major, just annoying to fix. Griffin, our facilities director, is working through the list—it's been hard to secure roofers and the like given the high demand for them. The deduct for "named events" in our insurance is too high for any of this to be covered by diocesan insurance. It'll probably cost us in the neighborhood of 30K or so. Bills still coming in.
5. We're going to have some **challenges during basketball season** with Covid distancing restrictions—just a heads up! We've mapped this out and cannot hold more than 140-150 people in the gym at one time and maintain 6 feet, which will definitely "close out" some interested fans. All tickets are purchased on line, and that system has gone well for volleyball and football, but basketball will have much higher interest than space allows. We ARE looking for a way to broadcast games on line, however.
6. **Covid has affected enrollment in our elementary schools** this year; they're down about 10.3% overall since 2019-20. It will have some impact on the size of our freshman class. We'll need to aim our freshman class at 80 students as a result, giving us a projected enrollment of 340 students next year.