

Updates from the Principal

As we reflect on the end of 1st semester and the beginning of 2nd, I want to share with you all some of the areas of advancement that have occurred:

- Mrs. Fischer, our Dean of Students, has worked with faculty and students on restorative justice circles. This is a method to allow folks to share and be heard. We use it in both large and small group settings to help settle disputes and misunderstandings. This tool helps address important issues and also teaches important strategies that we can use in other areas of our lives.
- 8th period has been refined to allow for better assistance to our struggling students. Teachers of students in specific grade levels are concentrated on two days so that students needing assistance can get the attention they need. This applies to both those assigned due to grades and those who opt to seek help from their teachers. Having students attend only twice per week also allows for smaller groups which facilitates students getting the help they need. In addition, the library offers a Teen Homework Help Center daily from 4-6 PM Monday-Friday.
- Our athletic program has also become more robust. We have acquired practice facilities for all of our sports that also allow us the option of hosting "home" games, and we had our first student receive a full athletic scholarship. Congratulations to Amaya Jones and to our Athletic Director, Juan Garcia!

It is exciting to see continuous growth, not only in our students as individuals, but in our school as a whole. Our overall mindset should always be one of pride in our current accomplishments and also continuously trying to get better. Together our community will achieve our goal of "Transforming Columbus, one student at a time."

Updates from Work Study

The second quarter in PWSP has been terrific. We have been working with students on receiving feedback (especially as it pertains to performance reviews), taking pride in performance at work, and practicing gratitude and self-care. Home report summaries of your student's performance reviews went out over the break. Please take a look at the summary and discuss them with your child. It's a great way to discover what they are doing at work. We're looking forward to seeing what the second semester brings!

Updates from Campus Ministry

The third quarter will be a busy one for Campus Ministry activities! The senior day retreat, with optional overnight lock-in back at Cristo Rey, will be January 19-20. Seniors will look at this very special time in their lives, moving from one chapter to another. The freshman day retreat will be on February 21, where they will explore what it means to be part of the Cristo Rey community.

On January 22, Campus Ministry will take a group of students to a Respect for Life mass held annually on the anniversary of the Roe v. Wade Supreme Court decision to de-criminalize abortion in the United States. Following the mass, students will also participate in a 'Roe Remembrance' demonstration at the Ohio Statehouse.

Students have also been engaged in community service and meeting the new student service requirement, *Cougar Faith in Action*. Students will receive additional guidance in finding service opportunities in their Theology classes. Anyone with questions can contact the Campus Minister, Sarah Saliba (ssaliba@cristoreycolumbus.org).

Updates from the Counseling Department

The seniors will begin to prepare for their transition to college during their advisory classes. They will go over topics such as financial aid awards, picking majors, college academics, and getting involved on campus.

Juniors will begin having weekly advisory sessions dedicated to college counseling. Throughout the course of the semester we will cover topics related to identifying schools for fit, writing a strong essay, maximizing college visits, and other important items to help make the fall semester of senior year a smooth application process.

Updates from Development

Thank you to all the parents who participated in Giving Tuesday, which was the Tuesday after Thanksgiving. Whether you donated personally or spread the word by sharing our posts on social media, we're grateful. Your efforts helped us reach our goal of raising \$1,000 in a single day. Thank you!

Speaking of social media, we invite you to follow Cristo Rey Columbus on Facebook to see stories and photos about our school community. We post several times a week, so there's always something new to see.

12th Grade

Updates from the Class of 2018: The start of a new year brings yet another reminder to the senior class about a quickly approaching new stage in our lives: college. The beginning of 2018 has given us a chance to look forward to the end goal in sight--walking across the stage in our gowns, cheered on by loved ones as we accept our diplomas. Before these daydreams fill our heads, it's important to remember that there's so many accomplishments to celebrate right now. Applications to all our dream schools, scholarships, and financial aid are nearly completed. Flashy emails and letters in the mail congratulating our acceptance into those schools are finally coming. Scholarships for our athletes are being won. We are looking forward to finishing our academic careers strong, and we are ready to begin the final semester of our high school careers. *Natasha Dizon '18*

9th Grade

Updates from the Class of 2021: Quarter 2 has been one of growth and achievement for the class of 2021. In their core classes, students learned a variety of foundational skills that they will need in order to succeed in high school and college. For example, in Algebra, students learned how to graph and write linear functions as well as how to set up, solve and graph linear inequalities. In English, students practiced their critical reading skills to explore Greek gods, goddesses and monsters from ancient mythology. They learned to embed quotations and cite their sources according to MLA. In World History, students focused on classical Greece and Rome. They did presentations and creative projects on various aspects of Greek history. In Biology, students studied how animal populations change over time; they also wrote research papers that explored the negative impact of humans on different species. In Technology, students learned about Excel to support their work in PWSP. In Theology, students acquired an overview of both the Old Testament and New Testament. Students also learned a lot in their electives. In visual art, students created ancient civilization-inspired ceramic jars, Chuck Close-inspired selfies, and completed an artist research project. In choir, students worked on giving an outstanding Christmas performance at State Auto. In physical education, students continued developing their skills and competing in racquet sports. They even created their own jump rope and gymnastics routine; be sure to **ask for a performance at home!** **The 9th grade staff is incredibly proud of the students and the hard work they put in during quarter 2. We are looking forward to working with the students in quarter 3.**

11th Grade

Updates from the Class of 2019: The second quarter seemed to fly by for the Junior class. They worked hard studying Shakespeare in English, learning about the Civil War in U.S. History, continuing their analytical math skills in Physics, Pre-Calculus, and Pre-Algebra, and much more. The Junior students are anxious but excited to get the college process started and are looking forward to Mr. Huynh, the college counselor, coming into their advisories weekly. Through these sessions, the students will begin to learn about finding the right schools for them, ACT and SAT testing information, financial aid and scholarship options, and many other components that will help them transition to their Senior year. The Junior teachers continue to be impressed with the students' academic drive, pride in their work, and involvement in their education holistically.

10th Grade

Updates from the Class of 2020: The sophomores stayed busy during the second quarter and it flew by! In October, the class gathered as to pray and reflect on our sophomore retreat. Students spent time in small and large groups sharing on the theme of leadership. Their perspectives were encouraging, and we are blessed to have these perceptive, driven, discerning leaders as forces for good in our community. We continued the conversation about college, as students took the practice ACT and spent an afternoon at Denison University. Many students started to imagine themselves in college. Maybe some of them will find themselves back there in just over two years! Of course, our academic pursuits continued and students met increasing demands in the classroom. Outside of the classroom, students are learning through their involvement in extracurricular activities and winter sports teams: basketball and wrestling. In PWSP, all students received a performance review, met with their supervisors, and set goals for areas of improvement for next semester. Second semester will explore the theme of mentorship and focus on personal brand and the strengths each student brings to the table. We look forward to another fantastic semester with this class and can't wait to see their continued growth as individuals and as a community!