

# Changes to CTCS \ 2022-2023



**Christ the Teacher**  
CATHOLIC SCHOOL

## Online School Calendar

Why? To communicate in real-time ALL events/details of ALL school events.

How? CTCS has purchased a "subscribed calendar" through CalendarWiz. Essentially, families can access information on school events through an online website ([calendarwiz.com/ctcsyakima](http://calendarwiz.com/ctcsyakima)), [our website](#), and even have it synced to your device (iPhone, iPad, computer, etc.) There is a tutorial to walk you through syncing the calendar to your device on the "[Helpful Links](#)" page of the school website. We want to eliminate all confusion and uncertainty surrounding school events, and this will do that!

## Mass Twice/Week at 12:15 PM instead of Once/Week Fridays at 8:15AM.

Why? A) Accreditation Self-Study revealed an opportunity to improve Catholic and Christian formation. B) As a Catholic school, celebrating the Eucharist as a community is essential. C) The Church is an extension of the classroom where discipline, reverence, and respect are observed, as well as opportunities for developing other skills like public speaking, using microphones, shaking hands, reading, singing, focusing, and many more. D) It's a solemn time for students to grow in their faith journey, wherever they're at on that journey. E) Intentional combination of language immersion opportunities for students learning Spanish and English. F) Instead of meeting for mass in the morning, which is prime instructional time for our students, students will experience mass after lunch with the daily parishioners of Holy Family. G) Opportunities to build relationships with students from other grades with "Prayer Buddies" making a return to St. Paul Cathedral School/Christ the Teacher Catholic School.

How? Students will have sufficient time to walk to and from Holy Family Church safely in addition to utilizing a shorter mass format as typically experienced for Holy Family's daily afternoon mass attendees. There will not be an additional monthly Prayer Service. This format actually improves the amount of instructional time.

## End of Terms

Why? To more consistently align with La Salle High School's terms as well as to finish the second quarter/first semester before Christmas Break. This will prevent students from coming back from two weeks off from Christmas break, only to still have a few weeks of class before the end of the second quarter/first semester. There is no impact on instructional time; merely when kids break for Christmas, they will have completed their second quarter/first semester of school.

How? The second quarter/first semester ends on December 16<sup>th</sup> and the fourth quarter/second semester ends on June 8<sup>th</sup>

### **Drop Off at 7:00 AM**

Why? A) To better serve our families and their daily schedule. B) To reduce the congestion with the school's drop-off plan.

How? CTCS will have additional support in the morning via parent volunteers and staff to monitor students during this time.

### **2:00 PM Release on Fridays**

Why? Facilitating weekly faculty and staff meetings will allow for more effective and frequent meetings to serve better and support the students.

How? Instead of an early monthly release on Friday at 11:30 AM for students, which allowed for up to four hours of meetings for faculty and staff, a 2:00 PM release every Friday will allow for an hour of weekly meetings. More frequent meetings will improve faculty/staff communication and development to better serve students and families.

### **Director of Assessment & Intervention**

Why? To more completely assess student progress and to provide specific intervention and support where and when needed.

How? Mrs. Sara Mortimer will serve in this full-time position to administer the MAP and Acadience testing, gather data, analyze data, and work with Mr. Lamb, teachers, and parents to provide individual student support. Additional ParaPros and the Director of Inclusive Educational Services will help support students by either "pulling out" or "popping in" with students.

### **Director of Inclusive Educational Services (IES)**

Why? While Christ the Teacher Catholic School does not have the resources to solely serve students who might need an IEP or 504 Plan, CTCS will do more to provide support for students, parents, and teachers.

How? Currently, a part-time position, CTCS will have Mrs. James, who has experience and endorsement in Special Education, work with Mr. Lamb to create a program to provide additional support in-house. In addition, she'll help coordinate with local school districts and parents regarding educational testing and special education services. This will be an ongoing process throughout the year to get up and running.

### **Director of Faith & Formation**

Why? A) To better support our Catholic Identity while intentionally partnering with Holy Family Parish in sacramental prep and liturgies. B) To have a "Campus Minister" on-campus coordinating retreats, service-learning immersions, liturgies, and monthly prayer services.

How? Mr. Gustavo Mendoza will serve as Director of Faith & Formation, coordinating with Holy Family, religious education, Mrs. Bennett, and all students, teachers, and parents to cultivate a culture of faith and formation for the school.

## Additional ParaPros

Why? A) To provide teachers with additional preparation and planning time. B) To provide students, teachers, and parents with additional support. C) To provide additional role models and mentors on campus.

How? Administration prioritized and budgeted five full-time positions, allowing for complete coverage at recess, drop off/pick up, and support for individual student needs.

## Band and Orchestra for 4<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> Grade

Why? Why not!? We have a teacher. We have students who are interested in the program. Let's see what we can build!

How? Ms. Sheila Wilson will lead a band class on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 11:00 AM-11:40 AM. She will also teach an orchestra class on Mondays and Wednesdays from 10:30 AM-11:15 AM. These opportunities are currently only available for 4<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> grade students. CTCS has a small cache of instruments, but families may purchase/rent instruments, as well. This class, as an extracurricular, may be revoked or suspended if a student is struggling academically or behaviorally. Students, parents, teachers, and administration will work together to serve the student and the program best. For now, the band/orchestra will utilize the stage in Queen's Gym. Specific details will be sent after the school year kicks off.

## STEM

Why? A) To better holistically prepare our students for America's (and the world's) contemporary educational needs. B) To utilize an extraordinarily gifted educator in Mr. Ulery and his desire to provide hands-on STEM opportunities for all our students. C) While CTCS uses the word "STEM," we're really a STREAM school.

S: Science, Spanish & Service-Learning

T: Technology & Teamwork

R: Religion, Reading & wRiting

E: Engineering, Exercise & Excellence

A: Art & Academic Awesomeness

M: Math, Music & Morals

How? K-5 students, in addition to receiving Science with their grade-level teachers, will experience STEM as a special enrichment once a week. 6-8 students will experience STEM daily.

## Middle School Grading: Category Weighting & Letter Grades

Why? A) To more accurately communicate student performance in class. B) To help prepare for the transition to high school and post-secondary grading.

How? All subjects for middle school students (6<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> grade) will be based on letter grades.

### **Middle School Retreats**

Why? A) To allow for personal and class development in a retreat setting. B) To support an off-campus, personal and spiritual growth experience.

How? Each 6th, 7th, and 8th grade will experience their class retreat during the school year. Locations and dates are to be determined.

### **Service-Learning Immersions**

Why? A) To connect Catholic Social Teaching and religion curriculum to real-life needs here in the Yakima Valley. B) To allow students to experience their faith through personal growth and service.

How? Middle school students will apply to serve on an immersion. Locations and dates to be determined.

### **Field Trips**

Why? Again, why not!? Let's see what we can do for our students in supplementing and providing unique educational experiences.

How? CTCS is in the process of purchasing our school bus. In the meantime, we have access to La Salle High School's school bus. Teachers will coordinate with the administration and parents for field trips.

### **Volunteers**

Why? A) Importance of families being involved in their student's educational experience. B) To utilize the time, gifts, and treasures of families to enrich the school community and educational experience for our students. C) To help fulfill additional school needs while allowing parents to serve their volunteer hours.

How? All volunteers must complete the following three steps before being allowed to volunteer on-campus. A) Complete VIRTUS (safe environment training)-can be completed online or in-person...contact Mr. Lamb to get set up B) Complete a background check with the Diocese of Yakima C) Show complete vaccination against COVID-19. Once those three requirements are fulfilled, individuals can coordinate with teachers/administration in volunteering with the school.

### **School Dances**

Why? A) Every student deserves the opportunity to experience the awkwardness that is a middle school dance. B) To provide families with unique and memorable opportunities like a Father-Daughter/Mother-Son dance. C) To have some fun!

How? Dances will be scheduled throughout the school year. Don't worry, parents. There will be proper supervision and sufficient room for the Holy Spirit for all dance partners.

### **Additional Signage & Parking Lot Striping**

Why? To increase safety and efficiency and reduce confusion in the school parking lot.

How? Installed additional signs at both entrances/exits, repainted lines, and accurately placed arrows to better direct traffic.

### **Virtue-Based Restorative Discipline**

Why? To better support and serve our students with a spiritual approach to disciplining that cultivates virtue and provides a rich foundation for fostering faith at home and school.

How? Administration and teachers will begin employing the principles of VBRD throughout the year.

### **Appearance Code**

Why? A) To consistently align with other Diocesan schools while maintaining a professional, respectful appearance at school. B) To allow for more individuality and school spirit (CTCS Spirit Fridays and "Fun Dress" Days).

How? A two-page Appearance Code document can be found on the school website under "Helpful Links".