



Dear RCS Families,

January 2022

Hello, and thank you for taking a few minutes to review what is underway at RCS.

With 2021 in the rear-view mirror, I like to dig around for a fitting quotation. The goal is to find a pithy saying anchored in the previous year's events. I unearthed a gem from mid-1800's congregationalist Rev. Henry Ward Beecher. "*Get good at extracting happiness from common ordinary things.*" I see a connection between Beecher's quote and Phil. 4:8.



Over Christmas break, I applied the principle while my daughters were visiting. My spirit lifted by deliberately zeroing in on common things, like enjoying meals together, working on a puzzle, and watching Elf as a family. While 2021 proved to be incredibly challenging, take inventory of ordinary things. As the old hymn suggests, "Count your blessings, name them one by one." Often, the overlooked and simple things are extraordinary gifts of God's grace.

### **Parenting Styles**

In late 2021, an article examined four different parenting styles and their long-term impacts on children. The Bible dispenses excellent wisdom on how to raise kids. I look for contemporary messages aligned to biblical principles and tips about raising children across their life stages. The full article is linked here, [Four Parenting Styles](#).

Graphically, the styles and a summary statement appear below.



Credit/Source: Verywell / Joshua Seong

Among the four styles, the researchers reported the following conclusion:

Researchers have found kids who have authoritative parents are most likely to become responsible adults who feel comfortable expressing their opinions.

I encourage families to have a conversation about their dominant parenting style. Making our thinking visible to our kids on this topic worked well for our family.

### Tuition for 2022-23 school year

Later this month, a tuition-rate proposal is provided to the RCS Board of Directors. During January's executive session, the board poses their final questions and votes to accept or reject the increase. My homework for setting tuition rates relies on Christian

School Management's Key Performance Indicators, KPI, and our year-over-year fund

balance. The KPI tallies four different

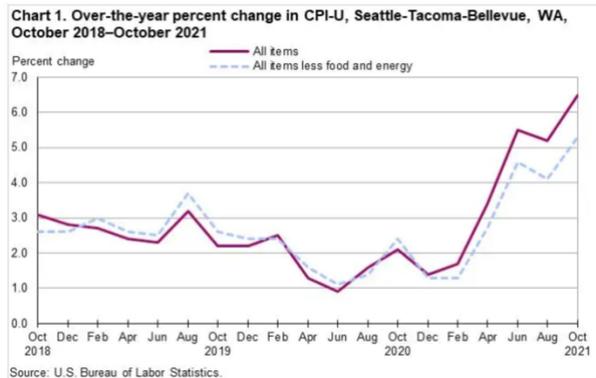
measures: the consumer price index, CPI,

Rate of Productivity, an Operations Tuition

Increase, and Teacher Salary Increase

recommendation. The four measures drive

our final tuition-rate increase. For the Seattle-



Tacoma metro area, a graph of the CPI appears below. Over the last 12 months, the CPI

rose approximately 6.5%, but the average annual increase is close to 2.5%. The Rate of

Productivity is based upon a six-year rolling average and equals 1.5%. Thirdly, the

Operations Tuition Increase is designed to retain the power of current operating expenses

and runs just under 4%. The Teacher Salary Increase examines payroll expenditures. Our

entire benefits package gets converted into a percentage and then added to the other three

measures. The 2022-23 tuition rate is scheduled for release on February 1. If you have any

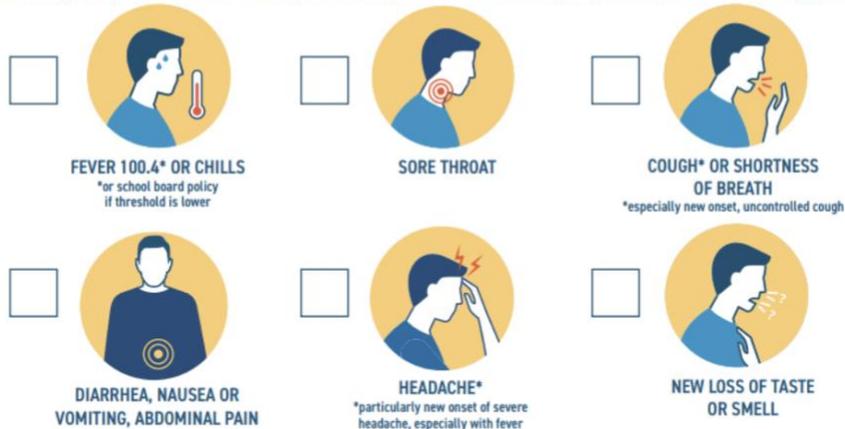
questions, please reach out to me directly.

### Returning to School

I had hoped to avoid mentioning COVID in my January letter. However, there are two concerns to bring forward. Before Christmas break, the principals reported an uptick in the number of positive cases. Three times we missed quarantining a cohort by one more positive case. Keep sick kids home. Use the checklist, COVID-19 Screening for Parents, shown on the next page. Please help us keep staff and other families as safe as possible and the school doors open.

## COVID-19 Screening for Parents

Every morning before you send your child to school please check for signs of illness:



*\*May present with more than one symptom. This list does not include all possible symptoms.*

- 1 Does your child have any sign of illness above?
- 2 Was your child in close contact (within 6 feet for a total of 15 minutes over a 24-hour period) with anyone confirmed with COVID-19?
- 3 If the answer is **YES** to any of the questions, **DO NOT** send your student to school. Instead, get your child tested for COVID-19 and isolate them until their test result is received.
- 4 Please keep your student home until they meet the criteria to return to school.

On December 30, the CDC revised the health guidance for K-12 students. The good news is, it is less disruptive. The recommendations for RCS become effective January 1. Note the changes based upon the exposure location, i.e., inside or outside the classroom.

### New K-12 Guidelines, Effective January 1, 2022

## K-12 Quarantine Guidance: When All Are Masked

### If student is **exposed** to someone with COVID-19 in the **classroom**:

- As long as continue to be asymptomatic, may remain in school and continue to wear a mask properly at all times, test on Day 5 if possible
- May continue extracurricular activities; wear a mask properly at all times when able (while not actively performing or actively playing during your sporting activity) for all 10 days
- If symptoms develop, get a test and stay home and if positive, follow isolation guidance. If test is negative, return to school when symptoms have resolved.

## K-12 Quarantine Guidance: When All Are Masked

If student is **exposed to someone with COVID-19 outside of the classroom, including home contacts:**

- If **fully vaccinated** (have received all doses of vaccines, including booster if eligible)
  - As long as asymptomatic, may remain in school and continue to mask at all times in classroom; test on Day 5 if possible
  - May continue extracurricular activities; wear mask for 10 days (while not actively performing or actively playing during your sporting activity)
  - If symptoms develop, get a test and stay home. If positive, follow isolation guidance. If test is negative, return to school when symptoms have resolved.
- If **unvaccinated or partially vaccinated:**
  - Stay home for 5 days; test on Day 5 if possible
  - Return to class on Day 6 if still asymptomatic. Continue to wear a mask for Days 6-10.
  - No extracurricular activities for 5 days of home quarantine. May resume Day 6 only if able to wear a mask at all times (including while actively performing or playing during your sporting activity) for Days 6-10.
  - If symptoms develop, get a test and stay home. If positive, follow isolation guidance. If test is negative, return to school when symptoms have resolved.

The CDC guidance is subject to new information with ongoing data collection. If the health guidance changes, expect an update as soon as humanly possible. Thank you for taking the time to learn about what is underway for the start of the new year. Your support and partnership are deeply appreciated, and thank you for choosing RCS.

My best,

*Bruce Kelly*

Bruce Kelly

president, Rainier Christian Schools

