



Dear RCS Families,

March 2022

I am thrilled to finally see the COVID numbers, hospitalizations, and deaths trending downward. With the steep drop in cases, the new date for migrating to mask optional is Saturday, March 12. RCS moves to mask-optional status for students, staff, and visitors on the same day. Wearing a mask becomes a choice based upon an individual's decision and life circumstances.

There is a sad story I want to avoid as we move to mask-optional. Last month, students in a public school walked out of class to protest mask-wearing. It is what happened after the protest that concerned me the most.

Some students labeled other students as "maskers" upon reentering the school. Maskers got into ugly verbal confrontations with anti-maskers creating mean-spirited labels for each other. As a learning community anchored in the good news of Jesus, let us aim to be peaceable and considerate of others, Titus 3:2.

A family chooses the best option for their child. There is no judgment for wearing a mask or not wearing a mask. Thank you in advance for initiating a conversation with your student about going to mask-optional status. While the transition's official start date is March 12, it becomes operational on Monday, March 14.

One employment-related challenge during COVID is staffing. Christian schools are not exempt from the scarcity of workers. Concerning ministry in general, Jesus shared with the disciples that the harvest is

Effective: 3/12/22



Masks Optional

plentiful, but the workers are few. Therefore, let us pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest—Mt. 9:38. The good news for next year is our enrollment numbers show a need to add positions. If you know of someone looking to engage in an educational-based ministry, please point them our way or direct them to [RCS Careers](#).

Pro Parenting Tip-Money Matters

As shared in last month's letter, lessons to our kids are often caught rather than taught. This approach applies to managing money. It is a topic with several tentacles: allowance, tithe, saving, and spending. How did we start?

The money received for birthdays and Christmas between ages 0 to 4 became the deposit to open each girls' savings account. Before they reached kindergarten, we established their savings accounts, provided them with piggy banks (pink pigs), and began discussing the concept of the tithe—using pennies, dimes, and dollar bills.



The tithe, along with the concepts of personal responsibility and work ethic, drove our decision to give allowances. A developmentally appropriate list of completed chores coincided with being paid each week. Extra tip: have the cash/change on hand. Before going to church, we discussed how to calculate the tithe.

As they got older, the allowance and the chore list grew proportionally. By the end of elementary school, we encouraged them to save 50% or more for future education plans, tithe 10%, and make prudent decisions for the rest. For us, the training for being prudent developed into a mantra, "Why don't you think about it for a few days?" They discovered how waiting would often bring an unexpected blessing like a sizeable discount or a change in desire.

During this time, they watched mom and dad discuss how to pay down the mortgage early by making an additional principal payment each month. We understood that the borrower is a servant to the lender, Prov. 22:7.

They began getting a clothing allowance by middle school and learned how to budget for back-to-school shopping and search for discounts, bargains, and promotions. Their appetite for bigger ticket items, i.e., cell phones also grew. The shift required them to save because our family practice, when possible, was to never borrow money for depreciating assets. As their savings grew, they studied the idea of earning greater interest. We asked them to explore a Certificate of Deposit, CD, as an investment vehicle. The girls determined a CD realized a significantly higher interest rate. Graphically, the concept of compounding interest proved easy to grasp. Before high school, we introduced O.P.M. (Other People's Money). We encouraged them to distinguish themselves in high school and be in a position to apply for merit-based scholarships, O.P.M.

By high school, they had part-time jobs. The same financial planning model continued: tithe 10%, save 50%, and spend, save, or bless others with the remaining 40%.

The final school-related money matter focused on what we would require from them for their college tuition expenses. Our decision resulted in the girls being responsible for one-third of the cost. After watching examples of parents footing the bill, we believed that having some skin in the game offered a better approach. The girls had many opportunities to make financial decisions and bless others through college. The lessons and modeling effectively carried the wisdom and practice of using money God's way.

Lastly, there is no easy transition to address our Ukrainian families and the Ukrainian people around the globe. Please know that we stand and kneel together in prayer for peace. May the God of all comfort and His presence strengthen hearts and minds during this time. The war is heartbreaking to watch and unimaginable for those placed in the center of conflict and destruction. As a learning community, I am calling us to prayer at 11:30 am on Friday, March 4. Please set your alarm and intercede for the people of Ukraine.

My best,

Bruce Kelly

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president, Rainier Christian Schools

