Greetings Cristo Rey De La Salle Champions,

Like all schools, the COVID-19 pandemic affects Cristo Rey De La Salle East Bay High School’s ability to bring wholeness to our students in the usual ways. Our students, families and staff struggle with the adjustment to a shelter-in-place school day. It is far from ideal. However, even amid the controlled chaos, Cristo Rey De La Salle is thriving. Our successes are real and exciting, including these accomplishments:

- Average remote class attendance is 98%.
- Forecasted ninth and tenth grade student retention rates are 96% and 98% respectively for 2020-21.
- 80 students have committed to attend Cristo Rey as freshman in the fall. We are so excited to welcome our third incoming class!

Everyone in our community is demonstrating strong commitment to the education of those entrusted to our care. Our dynamic staff has embraced the current reality and owned the responsibility to provide a valuable remote learning experience. Our supporters have “leaned in” to provide prayer, student employment, financial support, and necessary services. Our heroes, the students, log into virtual classrooms, engage with teachers and corporate work study partners, and finish their homework day in and day out. Our focused COVID-19 task force meets weekly to review all relevant material, plan for the summer, and prepare for the many possible fall learning environment options.

While we are saddened by what we cannot control, we are succeeding in the areas we can control. This pandemic has silver linings and we are witness to many. We won’t despair, we will have faith! Most importantly, we will continue to follow the example of our patron saint, Saint John Baptist de La Salle, who urges us to “touch the hearts of our students” every day, no matter the circumstances. Thank you for accompanying us every step of the way.

Stephen Murphy
President & CEO

Ana Hernandez
Principal

John Coughlan
Director, Corporate Work Study Program

1530 34th Ave., Oakland, CA 94601
(510) 532-8947
Planning Under Quarantine

Students are at the heart of every decision we make at Cristo Rey De La Salle. Our team has been actively meeting with Lasallian, Diocesan, and Cristo Rey administrators, as well as representatives from Summit Learning, to discuss best practices for virtual education and appropriate support for students so they can successfully complete the school year.

We continue to provide rigorous academics, social emotional support, opportunities for students to connect with one another online through a variety of community life events, and much more.

As we plan for the 2020-21 academic year, we have identified staff members to serve on a task force exploring a variety of virtual and/or in-person education delivery scenarios. The operations and technology teams are working diligently to do a needs assessment and plan accordingly. Our partnership with Summit Learning has provided a seamless transition into virtual classes for our students and we are confident that their education will be minimally disrupted. While the circumstances around the pandemic may change, one thing remains constant: our unwavering commitment to our students and to the safety of our families, educators, and partners.

Sponsor in the Spotlight: Synergistech Shines

Synergistech Communications is a successful business that recruits technical writers from its headquarters in Napa, boasting clients in Silicon Valley and across the Bay Area. It has the added distinction of being a corporate sponsor of Cristo Rey East Bay since the school’s founding. Now, Napa is a bit too far of a commute for students studying in Oakland, so our Team Synergistech workers have been working remotely for the company from campus since our school opened its doors in the fall of 2018. We didn’t know it at the time, but this arrangement was great preparation for the challenges of shelter-in-place.

Cristo Rey student associates assist CEO & Founder Andrew Davis with managing his extensive list of contacts and help connect talented writers with leading tech firms. And they don’t even set foot in the office to do it, saving commuting time and transportation dollars. An added bonus? Student employees working with this corporate sponsor quickly become experts at resume writing and LinkedIn profile building. These are skills that will serve them well and give them a great head start when they enter the open job market after college. Thank you, Synergistech!
COVID-19 continues to alter the way we work and live, but our Corporate Work Study Program swiftly adapted to new paradigms. When shelter-in-place was announced in March, student associates didn’t miss a beat!

The Corporate Work Study Program staff quickly developed a platform for building professional skills via distance learning. Students use business training software from LinkedIn and Applied Educational Systems, with lecture and office hours provided via Zoom. Project Redwood, a Stanford business school alumni group, paved the way for some of this innovative work by sponsoring our software licenses with Applied Educational Systems—thank you!

Synergistech, Revalue.io, Oakland Interfaith Gospel Choir, Catholic Funeral & Cemetery Services, and Make-A-Wish Greater Bay Area student employees are learning the benefits (and challenges) of working from home. They have been completing their work tasks remotely, developing the communication skills and trust required to support their employers via remote work.

Looking ahead to summer, the incoming ninth graders will be making history as the first graduates of a virtual Alpha Summer Institute. A virtual college tour will replace the traditional visit to St. Mary’s College, and Applied Educational Systems business training modules on Chromebooks will replace classroom instruction. We are currently looking for ideas on teaching handshakes and necktie knots via computer. YouTube, here we come!

Plans for developing additional school-based, socially-distant remote working labs for the fall are underway, with opportunities available for video game testers, recruiters, researchers, customer service analysts, and data entry professionals. Many unknowns surround the arrival of our new school year, but our mighty Mustangs will be prepared for any contingency.
BECOME A CORPORATE WORK STUDY PARTNER

You can make a difference in the life of a Cristo Rey De La Salle student!

Cristo Rey De La Salle must recruit 25 new partners from the Bay Area business community to ensure that each of our talented young people has a job for the 2020-21 school year. Our school engages corporate sponsors—as well as nonprofit, government, and small business partners—to employ our students throughout the East Bay and into San Francisco. Can you serve as an ambassador for the school by providing introductions or making connections with a potential employer? Can you have an immediate impact by engaging Cristo Rey De La Salle students in your own workplace?

Our students can provide many job functions, including:

Customer service · Data entry · Filing · Reception · Research · Social media management · and more!

Join more than thirty local employers: add cost-effective, productive, and, in many cases, multilingual entry-level employees for your business. In addition, you’ll be helping students acquire valuable job skills and benefiting your local community.

For more information, please reach out to John Coughlan, Director, Corporate Work Study Program at jcoughlan@cristoreydelasalle.org or (415) 548-0165.

www.crdls.org/corporate-work-study-program