



# ST. CHARLES BORROMEO

CATHOLIC CLASSICAL SCHOOL

*Veritas · Pietas · Disciplina*

1 July 2026

*Saint Junipero Serra*

Dear Families and Friends of St. Charles Borromeo Catholic Classical School,

Today marks Day One of my administration — an appropriate moment in which to briefly introduce myself and express heartfelt gratitude for the opportunity to lead this remarkable school community into its next chapter.

Four years ago, my wife and I moved to Spokane, Washington, from Memphis, Tennessee, where we both had started our teaching careers in urban schools. We were blessed to find work in Catholic classical education — she at St. Charles Catholic School as a fourth grade teacher and I at Chesterton Academy of Notre Dame as a Humanities teacher and eventually Dean of Academics. In working at these schools, we both came to see the absolute necessity of classical education, not just for the sake of our culture but for the souls of our children.

I now count it a true privilege to offer even greater service to the Spokane Catholic community as a school leader and guardian, alongside Fr. Kyle Ratuiste, of the mission of Catholic classical education in the Inland Northwest. This is a weighty responsibility; I ask for your prayers and patience as I learn to lead our school forward — and to do so with humility, fortitude, and charity, God willing!

While the leadership of this school is changing, I want to assure you that the fundamental mission remains the same: I am deeply committed to the spiritual, moral, and intellectual formation of young people — a formation ordered towards a desire for the truth and a love for the good. Our ultimate aim is Heaven; but we must be prepared for Heaven in this life. This is the task of Catholic classical education.

And now an invitation: On **Sunday, July 12**, Fr. Ratuiste and I will be more formally introduced to the parish and school communities after the 10:00 AM Mass. Following a brief welcome reception in

the gymnasium, Father and I will introduce ourselves in more detail and offer our visions for the parish and school. Please attend if you can.

Apart from introductions, I also want to ensure you are aware of several major changes before the start of the school year. I ask you to review these carefully and reach out to my office with any questions you may have.

First and foremost, I am very pleased to announce that St. Charles Borromeo Catholic Classical School will offer **daily Mass at 8:00 AM** to students and families during the 2026-2027 school year. As of right now, the plan is to continue the tradition of celebrating a Friday High Mass with musical accompaniment and student involvement. While this is an exciting change, logistical details for daily Mass are still being finalized and will take time. The school community will be updated as soon as I am ready to share our plans, procedures, and other necessities.

Second, you have probably already noticed that, based on the letterhead above, our school's brand has changed. The impetus behind this aesthetic and cosmetic change is twofold — our school's patronage and the reality of leadership change.

Father and I both believe that our brand needs to more appropriately reflect the patronage of Saint Charles Borromeo (1538-1584), a venerable Counter-Reformation saint and patron of seminarians. It is for this reason that "Borromeo" has proudly returned to the name of our school and parish. Moreover, the new mark of our school — the iconic Borromeian Rings from the crest of the House of Borromeo — act as an elegant identifier of our patron while at the same time serving as a classical symbol for the Trinity, a key marker of our Catholic Faith.

In addition to the desire to more fully embrace our school's patronage comes the unique reality that our parish and school have new leaders, both of whom are being installed in their positions on the same day. With such a dramatic and sweeping change in leadership comes the corresponding need, we feel, for the launch of a new, fresh look — an invitation to move "always forward," as Saint Junipero Serra — whose feast we celebrate today — said throughout his life.

Please rest assured that this rebranding requires no immediate action — or expense — from families. The plan is to fully introduce a newly branded uniform polo shirt for the 2027-2028 school year. A new website that reflects the updated brand will launch in August.

Finally, you will find attached to this letter an updated calendar for the 2026-2027 school year. A few major changes that families should note include the following:

1. **The new start date is Wednesday, September 2.** This is to accommodate the higher-than-normal load of projects on campus this summer.
2. **The first day of school for Kindergarten is Tuesday, September 8.** This is to allow Mrs. Joosten a chance to meet with families and students while school is in session during the first week. She will reach out directly to Kindergarten families as we draw closer to the start of the new school year.
3. The school will be closed on December 8, the Feast of the Immaculate Conception, to honor the Holy Day of Obligation. The school will also be closed on Holy Thursday — Thursday, March 25.
4. Thursday, February 11 and Friday, February 12 will be dedicated to faculty formation and thereby offer families an extended Presidents' Day Weekend.

You can expect several more updates throughout the summer in anticipation of the new school year. In the meantime, I wish you all a restful and joyful summer vacation. Please know how thrilled I am to begin a new school year with you this September. Until then, and even thereafter, I will be praying in earnest for St. Charles Borromeo Catholic Classical School and the families that make this mission possible.

*Saint Charles Borromeo, pray for us!*

Pax Christi,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Tait R. Jensen". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Tait" and last name "Jensen" clearly legible.

Mr. Tait Jensen, M.Ed.

PRINCIPAL