



HOLY TRINITY SCHOOL
STOCKHAM AND OSBORNE AVENUES
MORRISVILLE, PA 19067
215-295-6900
www.holytrinitypa.com



July 14, 2020

Dear Parents and Guardians of Holy Trinity School Students,

I hope you and your families have been able to enjoy some pieces of summer fun. As Holy Trinity School is preparing to open in about two months (September 9, 2020), I wanted to take time to communicate some initial plans and procedures that are being discussed both with the Archdiocese of Philadelphia and internally with our Pandemic Team. This past school year concluded in a way that no one could ever have imagined. The students, families, and staff have all worked together to face these past few months with incredible perseverance. It will be that same courage and mutual respect that will aid us in reopening our building in the fall.

The Archdiocese of Philadelphia/Office of Catholic Education and its Taskforce have worked to create guidelines in compliance with the Center for Disease Control, Pennsylvania Department of Education, and the Pennsylvania Department of Health. Holy Trinity Catholic School is committed to doing everything possible to opening the 2020-2021 school year with continued focus on academic excellence, as well as the health and safety of our school community as our top priority. As we are all aware, our plan may need to be changed or modified according to the most current circumstances.

Below are some foundational pieces upon which our plan is being built:

- **Partnership:** Holy Trinity has built a strong partnership between home and school – an even greater partnership is now needed. Success of the new school year depends upon parents being responsible to monitor their child’s health daily. Children who are experiencing any symptoms of illness should be kept home until medically cleared to return to school. There must be no fever present for twenty-four hours after medication has stopped.
- **Cohorting:** Many health organizations are recommending the use of cohorts (homerooms) as a measure to prevent the spread of disease. Along with other precautionary measures, cohorts will be a part of our plan. With these cohorts, we will make attempts to keep groups of children together from the time they enter school until dismissal.
- **Social Distancing:** Social Distancing is also a fundamental practice of our plan and procedures of operation. Social distancing is deliberately increasing the physical space between people to avoid spreading illness. This will include travel in the hallways, lunch periods, and classroom instruction to maximize social distancing within practical reason.

- **Strategic Use of Masks:** Masks will be mandatory in certain situations, such as travel in common school areas (hallways, stairwells, on the bus, classroom situations with non-cohort members, or travelling around the classroom where social distancing is not possible.) When the students are at their desks within their cohort, they may remove their mask. Thus, using these principles, students may remain mask-free for a good part of the day unless a parent indicates that their child must wear the mask all day. Faculty and staff will wear face shields or masks when instructing and moving through the building.
- **Cleaning:** The school will increase the cleaning of common areas and highly-used features such as doorknobs, handrails, and counters. Personnel will be trained accordingly.
- **Virtual Learning:** Use of both Distance Learning and Virtual Learning will be implemented under certain circumstances.
- **Modified Attendance:** Since we are encouraging parents to monitor health carefully and keep children home if displaying any symptoms, the recording of attendance will change. Children will be marked in attendance either in person or virtually. Only children who do not participate in an in-person or virtual classroom will be marked absent.

The Holy Trinity Pandemic Team is developing strategies and guidelines should an outbreak occur when school returns. This will be done with communication to and collaboration with public health officials at the local and state level.

There very well may be a shift in some personnel schedules in the building to ensure the best environment for social distancing and student achievement.

I also wish to express my thanks to the following members of the school Pandemic Team: Mrs. Susan Smith (Grade 5 Homeroom Teacher, Science Coordinator) will assume the role of Pandemic Team Coordinator. Mrs. Smith, in her new role of Vice Principal and in addition to serving as a member of our School Safety Team, will lead other team members: Miss Samantha Glitz (PreKA teacher), Mrs. Maryann Bohl (PreKA aide), Mrs. Janet Horn (PreKB teacher), Mrs. Olivia Haney (Grade 1 teacher), Mr. Steve Brown (Grade 8 teacher), Mrs. Gen Haney (Art/Religion teacher), and Mrs. Lori Hahn (Director of Technology). Mrs. Elaine McDowell (Director of Development) will serve as a consultant for the team, and Mrs. Natalie Holmes (Home and School President) will serve as a parent liaison.

In addition to the items mentioned above, the team is also working on the following (but certainly not limited to) areas of consideration as part of the final plan:

- Entering and exiting the building
- Visitors and volunteers
- Classroom operations – seating arrangements
- Use and exchange of materials
- Protocol for younger children
- Catholic Identity
- Hallway movement
- Playground and schoolyard
- Food services

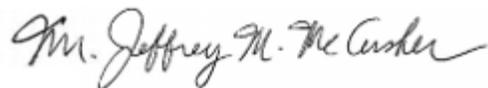
- Behavioral health and emotional support for our students
- Well-being of the faculty and staff
- Buses
- Before and After School CARES Program
- 21st Century Programming

Holy Trinity School will continue to use Google Classroom as our Learning Management System. Zoom lessons will continue to be implemented. Grades 6-7-8 already utilize 1:1 technology with Chromebooks. We are preparing to move this into Grade 5 in September as well, with the future goal and intention of including Grades 4 and 3.

The 2020-2021 school year will be critical to non-public education, Catholic Education, and the mission of Holy Trinity School. Information will be disseminated through Option C and our school website as we add on a tab for “Reopening,” where plans, guidelines, and resources can be shared. Our goal is to publish our plan on Friday, July 31, 2020.

I would like to especially thank our Pastor, Msgr. Eckert, for his sincere dedication and commitment to Holy Trinity Parish and its mission. I met with Msgr. Eckert yesterday, and he is most supportive of the measures needed to continue the mission of Holy Trinity School, with a much needed awareness of current safety measures. I also thank our faculty and staff for their re-commitment to our students and their families. In conclusion, I want to thank our families of Holy Trinity. Through your support and generosity, Holy Trinity has not only survived the past few months, but enabled all to approach the next months with hope and faith that we will continue to thrive. Holy Trinity is stronger now than ever before, and the many e-mails and calls that have come from school families sharing your stories has affirmed your commitment to the power and strength of the Holy Trinity community. You have my respect and admiration, and I pledge in my new role as your principal to work to the best of my ability to ensure that Holy Trinity School opens on September 9, 2020 – in a safe, nurturing, and faith-filled way.

Most Sincerely,



Mr. Jeffrey M. McCusker

Principal