



## HOLY TRINITY SCHOOL

Stockham & Osborne Avenues

Morrisville, PA 19067

215-295-6900

<https://holytrinitypa.com/>

August 31, 2020

Dear Holy Trinity School Parents and Guardians:

I hope this letter finds you and your families safe and well. I also hope you have been able to enjoy some summer fun during these unprecedented times. Each year, the opening of school brings out many emotions - excitement for a new beginning, sadness to see the summer season end, happiness to see old friends and make new ones, nervousness as another year of work begins. It is always an excellent time to return to a schedule and "normal" days. As we discovered in March of this year, and as the events of the past six months have shown us, we are certainly not living in "normal" times. However, here at Holy Trinity, we continue to do our best to prepare for the unexpected, and just like we did during remote learning, we are ready to face the next school year together.

We have been working hard to prepare our buildings for the opening of school. I would like to highlight some of the additions and updates that we have made over the summer:

- Both buildings have been cleaned and sanitized.
- We have purchased thermometers for use at the Children's Cottage and main school building during morning arrival.
- We have extra masks available in the event of an emergency.
- Every student will have their own desk partition on top of their desk.
- Face shields are being provided to all students and staff through the generosity of the County of Bucks Commissioners and Emergency Management Agency in coordination with the Bucks County Department of Health and the Bucks County Intermediate Unit.
- Additional sanitizers, cleaning products, foggers, sprayers, floor markers, signage, etc. have been purchased.
- Fans have been purchased for classroom windows.
- We have hired an additional member to our cleaning staff.
- Student desks have been purchased for Kindergarten (courtesy of our Manna Program). Extra tables have been moved to our Children's Cottage to aid with social distancing.
- Excess furniture has been removed from all classrooms.
- We are awaiting the arrival of new teacher laptops to help us with Distance Learning (through a grant from Bucks County Intermediate Unit).
- We have been able to move our 1:1 technology device program to now include Grade 5 (through a generous grant from the Connelly Foundation).

- We are hopeful to move our 1:1 technology device program to also include Grade 4 (through a generous grant from the Danaher Lynch Family Foundation.) These devices are on back order.
- Receptacle dispensers have been installed in the girls' lavatories.
- In the academic area, we have extended the nationally acclaimed Fountas and Pinnell Reading Literacy Program to now include grades PreK to 4.
- The new Science Fusion program (in grades 6-7-8) will also now include Grades 4 and 5.
- These academic updates are funded through the Home and School, grants from foundations, and private donors.
- A wing of the Children's Cottage had a makeover this summer. The wing was painted, carpeted, and new doors were installed. This wing houses the office of our new Director of Development and Curriculum Consultant, Mrs. Elaine McDowell.
- Our main school lobby has been refreshed and updated with some new additions.

As you can see, it has been quite a busy summer for us at Holy Trinity!

Our opening of school week schedules and important information are as follows:

- Tuesday, September 8: Faculty Organizational Day (no school for students). 3-4 pm: device pickup (Angel Door)
- Wednesday, September 9: Grades 1-5 report (full day); PreK and K boys report (9-11 am)
- Thursday, September 10: Grades 6-8 report (full day); PreK and Kindergarten girls report (9-11 am)
- Thursday, September 10 (4-6 pm): virtual students pick up of materials
- Friday, September 11: Grades PreK-8 report (noon-dismissal); Food Truck Friendly "To Go" (5 pm)
- Information for virtual students and log-in times for these initial days will be sent from your child's teacher.
- Arrival time in the morning will now run from 8:00 am - 8:25 am for students in Grades K - 8. Students in Grades K - 4 will enter through the Angel Door on Stockham Avenue, and students in Grades 5 - 8 will enter through the school yard door. Student temperatures will be taken at each door.
- PreK students in the Children's Cottage may arrive from 8:10 - 8:30 am.
- Both morning and afternoon CARES Program will begin on Monday, September 14th. Morning CARES beginning at 7:00 am will take place in the cafeteria for all grades. Afternoon CARES will also take place in the cafeteria (grades K - 8); PreK students will remain in the Children's Cottage for afternoon CARES.
- Our Breakfast and Hot Lunch Program through NDS (Nutritional Development Services) will begin on Monday, September 21st. Students will need to bring their own lunch prior to this date.
- Our September calendar is now posted on the school website.
- "Virtual" Back to School Night is scheduled for Thursday, September 24th - more information will follow.
- One important calendar change: Friday, September 25th is now a full day staff development (There is no school for the students on this day.)

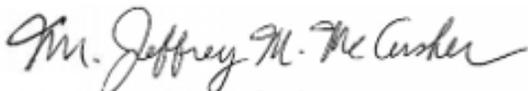
In additional to all of this information, I would like to announce the following staffing updates for this school year:

- We welcome Mr. Anthony Smith who will serve as a building aide and office assistant.
- We bid farewell to Miss Carly Fario, PreK-B aide, who will not be returning to Holy Trinity this year. We wish Miss Carly well in her new endeavors.
- At this time, we are currently seeking a PreK-B aide - if anyone is interested in this position, please contact me at school.
- Our Music teacher, Mrs. Lynn Merk, will begin the school year on leave. We are currently seeking a substitute to cover Mrs. Merk's teaching responsibilities during her leave.
- Our Kindergarten teacher, Miss Jennifer Ansaldo, will begin the school year on a Family Medical Leave, with an expected return date of Thursday, December 10, 2020. We will update you as needed.
- Miss Christine Traub, our STEM and library teacher, will be assuming the responsibilities as Kindergarten teacher at this time. Miss Traub's experience with our school, coupled with her love of our students and school program is evident in all she does. I thank her for her willingness to serve as the long-term substitute at this time. Miss Traub will work alongside Miss Amber Vandiver, who is returning as our aide in Kindergarten. Mrs. McDowell and I will be assisting with the curriculum requirements of our Kindergarten Program.

During the initial weeks in September, teachers will be focusing on assessing student academic progress since March. Assessments will be done in the areas of Reading, Math, Writing and Grammar, and the instruction during these initial weeks will be devoted to reinforcing skills from the last trimester of the school year, where needed. Early in October, all grades will switch to the new year's curriculum.

In closing, I would like to thank our Pastor, Msgr. Eckert, for his consistent dedication to our school. Msgr. Eckert is fully committed to ensuring that Holy Trinity School is prepared to open and has all the necessary equipment and supplies to do so. I am grateful for his support as I begin my first year as principal. Thank you to our teachers and staff members who have been working hard to be ready for our in-person and virtual students. Thank you to our parents and parishioners who continue to be supportive of our school, especially those who are faithful to our Manna Program. The 2020-2021 school year promises to be like no other, and I am very much looking forward to welcoming our students and families safely back to school in every platform. We will continue to celebrate our successes, and work through any glitches together. We pray for patience on the part of all since this is uncharted water for students, teachers, and parents. Please feel free to contact me with any questions. I am humbled to serve as your principal.

Sincerely,



Mr. Jeffrey M. McCusker

Principal