



**TRINITY**  
**SCHOOL**  
EST. 1961

Dear Trinity Families,

I hope your family is healthy and safe from the devastating wildfires.

It's August 19 and school is one week away. The intent of this lengthy note is to forward some general and recurring thoughts as well some current happenings at our school.

For a moment, if we can, I ask us to step back, survey the landscape, and take in the broader horizon. I mean really step back. For me, that translates into stepping back from the unavoidable minutia, sometimes myopic, yet nevertheless essential views of Trinity School - from touchless water faucets to approved HVAC air filters to studies on how optimize screen time for students to understanding the continuum of anxiety of students, parents, faculty and staff to being on campus - and view Trinity's position in the wider world. Or, said differently, the long game.

Over the summer, I've reflected upon both Covid - our local and national response to the pandemic, and how it might impact our students - and the concept of privilege and my good fortune. Initially, this stemmed from the profound civil unrest that we faced, and continue to face, as a country. Given my role at an Episcopal school with deep roots in social advocacy, it felt natural for me to think seriously about this - and to wonder how we might have important conversations with our students about the world around us. We've had some of those initial conversations over the past week at our Summer Institute for faculty and staff.

But then the thoughts expanded. Beyond the civil unrest, I've been mindful of how very fortunate we are as a school so many times this summer. Together with the administrative team, we've made detailed lists of absolutely everything we might need to promote health and safety on campus. It includes large infrastructure items like updated HVAC systems, sensors for every sink, so that students don't have to touch anything when they wash their hands, and hand sanitizing stations across both of our campuses. It also includes a seemingly endless catalog of smaller items from face shields, to gloves, signage, and clear masks for teachers so that young students can see their mouths for better communication. The logistics have been, at times, overwhelming. Nevertheless, we are well-resourced to meet those logistical challenges - and have. And then we were able to shift, on a moment's notice, from a logistics focus to people focus when the watch list was announced or when we were informed of a positive Covid-19 diagnosis on our campus.

Caring for students necessitates this kind of unflinching vigilance and flexibility, and yet, it also reminds me of Trinity's good fortune relative to many. Our families pay tuition and are generous with our school. Thousands of schools across the country would undertake just this kind of preparation, but their budgets don't allow for it. As much as distance learning can be a challenge for all of us, we are able to provide iPads to every student in Kindergarten to Grade 5, and to help ensure that each student has access to a stable internet connection. Furthermore, we are able to provide distance



learning of the highest quality due to our ability to be highly resourced with training and materials for faculty and staff - who work with resolve, flexibility and creativity.

We also wrestled, as related, when our full school in-person opening was fully on table, whether to require a two-week quarantine before the school year starts. When I considered this, I quickly realized given the diversity of our school community, that simply isn't possible. Some parents are first responders who need to be on the front lines, fighting the pandemic, and some parents work several jobs in service of their families - and not at companies that allow them to work from home. Every family is unique, and while mandating quarantine might seem like a straightforward solution, we find that it is anything but.

I suspect we will continue to reflect on how we as a community give thanks for all that's possible, while also remembering how relatively fortunate we are. I hope that in our conversations with students across both campuses, we can continue important conversations around social advocacy and acting in service of others. And that we can continue to find ways, through our actions, to help those who are less fortunate. This year, and every year.

Most of all, I am grateful for all of you and what you bring to our community: a shared interest in progress, in learning, and in wanting the best for each and every one of our students.

Now, onto more immediate news, or the short game:

### New Staff Members

I'd like to announce four new staff members at Trinity. We're thrilled they've landed at Trinity and all have been part of our Summer Institute:

- Brenda Cano will be teaching Spanish on the Upper Campus as well as being a Teaching Assistant. A graduate of Universidad Iberoamericana, Brenda has taught for IES Language Foundations in San Diego and spent the last year as the Grade 4 Lead Teacher at Cleveland Elementary School in the San Francisco Unified School District.
- Angela Wu will be a teacher in our Early Childhood Program. A graduate of San Jose State, Angela has experience teaching at the E2 Young Engineer Program in San Jose, as a Lead Science Instructor at Camp Galileo, and as a Teaching Assistant at The Harker School.
- Elise Cai will be a teacher in our Early Childhood Program. A graduate of San Francisco State University, Elise has teaching experience at the Children's Campus at SFSU and with Reading Partners in San Francisco.



- Nathan Taylor will be a Teaching Assistant on the Upper Campus. Nathan attended The Rhode Island School of Design and has teaching experience with Young Rembrandts in Woodside and Palo Alto and has been a Team Leader at Camp Galileo.

Reminders of upcoming events (information has been sent out in earlier communications)

#### Lower Campus

- Today: Distance Learning Begins
- Friday: Optional Unicycle Drive Through from 2:00 to 3:00
- Next Tuesday: ECP Orientation at 10:00
- Wednesday: Opening Day

Contact: [kroybal@trinity-mp.org](mailto:kroybal@trinity-mp.org)

#### Upper Campus Kindergarten to Grade 5

- Tomorrow: Teacher Blogs sent home (with instructions on how to join)
- Tomorrow: Kindergarten Orientation at 1:00
- Tomorrow: New Family Orientation at 2:15
- Monday and Tuesday: Teacher Meet and Greet with students/families [Sign Up Here if You Haven't Yet](#)
- Wednesday: Opening Day

Contact: [cmcwilliams@trinity-mp.org](mailto:cmcwilliams@trinity-mp.org)

#### Food Drive on Monday and Tuesday at Meet and Greet

For the Upper Campus Teacher Meet and Greet on Monday and Tuesday, we will also be holding a food drive for The Ecumenical Hunger Project, located in East Palo Alto. We have partnered with ECH for years and classes have taken field trips to the facility. All food should be non-perishable. In our contact with ECH, they are in particular need of:

- Food, especially protein, ready to eat/cook meal foods, individually wrapped snacks but will take all foods. The ECH wish list is here [ECH Wish List](#)
- Sanitizing products like Purell and wipes
- Disposable diapers
- Toilet paper
- Dish and laundry detergent

Contact: [kthacker@trinity-mp.org](mailto:kthacker@trinity-mp.org)



### The Waiver Process

San Mateo County has not distributed the waivers yet. However, it is anticipated the distribution will be this Friday or early next week. Trinity has all the information for the waiver as we have viewed prototypes although it is uncertain how long the process will take once we submit to the County.

As always, my door is open if you have any questions or input.

I truly believe we will get through this together and be improved on the other side - by being mindful and keeping active in both the long and short game.

Be well and hold your family close.

Matt