

Hello TMI! Father Scott here with another community update, one week before the start of our exciting school year. Next week is Convocation Day, the beginning of the school year, and I'm really excited to get this year started. Over the past few weeks, we've had some of our boarding students arrive to campus to begin their self-quarantine process so that they can be healthy and ready to attend classes as soon as we return to a normal or a hybrid schedule. It is absolutely wonderful just knowing that students are back on this campus, even if they're staying inside their dorm rooms right now.

As I mentioned in my last update, we are going to be finding ways to bring small groups of students to campus while we start this year in remote instruction. Plans are already in the works and will be shared with eligible senior cadets for their individual commissioning ceremonies to take place in front of the MacArthur statue with their families next week, where we will truly be able to honor and celebrate these amazing senior accomplishments. In addition to the Corps commissioning, which will be on campus next week, our Athletic Department is coordinating with their coaching staff and developing updated plans to host small groups of student-athletes on campus for practice. We hope that we will be able to do this later this month.

Coming onto campus in small groups gives us a chance to start bringing the community together safely, while also ensuring that we're doing our part to help San Antonio slow the spread of the virus until health officials and our own health consultants believe that it is safe for us to return to campus at 100% capacity. I just want to remind you that the decision we made, the hard decision we made, to start with remote instruction was one that we did because we felt like TMI had a social and moral responsibility to do our part to control the spread of COVID-19. We're still on track for our return-to-campus date of September 21st, but as always, we will follow the advice and the recommendations of our local health authorities and our own TMI health consultants. We will continue to monitor metrics that we're using for our own school and that are used across the country to return to school. We want to make sure that when we come back to campus, we stay on campus.

I'm so proud of our faculty and our staff who have climbed Mount Everest this summer just to get ready for this school year and to do it safely. This past week, our faculty have been attending in-service preparing for the first day of school. We've been training with our faculty and staff and with the Academic Response Team to begin implementing the tools and practices that will help set us up to streamline communication with you, our parents and students, and provide you with consistent and solid remote instruction as we head into this year.

A lot is going on behind the scenes with lots of training and preparation. And even though we are starting the school year remotely, our faculty can't wait to get our students back in their classes.

So today, I just have a short update for you as the process begins and we start executing our plans that we've been sharing with you throughout the summer. One thing I'm excited to tell you about is our Community Engagement Council. This is our parent group and they've been working behind the scenes for the last couple of months to bring you a TMI spirit store online. That means that our new families, and our returning families, don't have to wait until you come to campus to visit the spirit store. You can get spirit dress wear to start the school year online and begin showing your Panther Pride. A link is located just a short way down on our home page for the new TMI Panthers Spirit Store; the store officially opened on Friday and there's a promotion running right now for the first 30 days to receive 25% off all your orders. All the details and the spirit store links are in News & Notes this week.

In addition to the new online TMI Spirit Store, our Community Engagement Council has been working on creating an online TMI mask store. There are three styles of masks, which have been approved with the TMI logo, that you can wear on campus. When we return, when we do come back to campus, you will be required to wear a mask. Students will need to either wear one of the TMI masks purchased through the store or they can bring their own as long as it's a surgical mask or a solid black mask and made of 100% cotton with at least two layers of fabric. Masks will be provided upon request for students who do not provide their own and more details on the masks and requirements for that will be in this week's News & Notes.

The Spirits Store is saying that the turnaround time is about two to three days for items that are in stock. So if you purchase those online, they will be shipped directly to you.

Just a couple of more quick notes to share with you today about getting ready for the start of the school year. For those of you who've attended or watched our Campus+Live events, you'll recall that we mentioned back-to-school boxes that our academic team is currently putting together. Those boxes will be ready to give to you next Saturday, August 22nd. The boxes will contain a variety of things that you'll need for remote instruction from art supplies and other school supplies to our yearbooks for our returning students. We wanted to be mindful of our families who are back to work and so we chose the weekend. We hope that Saturday pickup will be very convenient for you.

I also want to remind you of the upcoming virtual New Family Orientation that's this Tuesday night. You should have received an email with details and a Zoom link for that evening. Our New Family Orientation is really designed to help you get further acquainted with the various areas and aspects of TMI and student life and we want to make sure that you know that if you have any questions along the way, you know where to turn. This event is for both parents and students and we hope that after attending the orientation on Tuesday that you'll be ready to start the school year.

I want to leave you today with the reminder that here at TMI, I'm all in. Our faculty and staff are all in. From our janitorial and maintenance staff to our facilities teams to our faculty and administrative teams, we're working harder than ever to make sure that we deliver the best remote instruction experience possible and then prepare to make TMI an even greater place once we return to campus. There's nothing more that we want than to return to campus with our students and our families in our community. And that day will come, but right now, we have to do our part to support the greater San Antonio community during this time; and so we will prepare to come back to campus soon and then stay on campus.

Thanks again for your support. We look forward to seeing you in the virtual events in the weeks to come and then on campus very, very soon. Go Panthers, and I love you all.

The Rev. Scott J. Brown

Husband to Kimberly

Father to Parker, Christopher and Angelene

Spurs Fan

Golf Fanatic

Head of School