

Hello, TMI! Father Scott Brown here with your October 9th Community Update, keeping you in the loop on all things TMI. Today's the end of the first quarter. It's hard to believe that we are already 25% of the way through our academic year. One quarter of the way in and we're wrapping up today. I just want to remind you about the schedule going forward. On Monday, we observe a national holiday, so no school on Monday. Tuesday is a faculty work day, so no students on campus as our faculty wrap up grading for the quarter and prepare for the next quarter. And then Wednesday is our normal Community Day during which there are no classes on campus. However, 9th 10th and 11th graders, you do have the PSAT on Wednesday. So if you're in sixth to eighth or in 12th grade, you've got a nice long weekend ahead. I hope you get a chance to rest and relax; 9th 10th 11th graders we'll see you on campus next Wednesday for the PSAT.

Very soon, our winter sports of swimming, basketball and soccer will return. Just as we've told you before, all of our winter sports will look a little differently, but nevertheless, we're excited that we have winter sports coming back. As a quick update on the Walker Innovation Center, I'm actually on the Mims Terrace of the Walker Innovation Center. This beautiful space is just outside of the idea labs. The Walker Innovation Center opens up this week as well. So when students come back to campus after the PSAT, if you have classes in this building – Innovation & Design courses, some of our biology courses and physics courses, and some of our engineering courses – they will all take place in the Walker Innovation Center and we will be open for students just after we get back from the long weekend; hopefully by the end of next week, if not, then by the beginning of the following week. So the building is going to be up and running very, very soon. I can't wait to welcome and show it to you.

If you've been watching the news, you've seen that the numbers in San Antonio pertaining to COVID-19 are trending in the right direction. As a matter of fact, schools are trending toward a low-risk, or a green level, and that's really great for Bexar County schools. However, as we continue to observe those numbers and then make sure we're doing what's best for our students, just because things are looking better doesn't mean now is the time to stop doing the things we've done to get us here. We're going to make sure that we keep on the track that we're on. So things like the pre-screening form before you come to school are very important. Our student leadership has just suggested that we add another layer of accountability and we will begin, after coming back from this long weekend, doing some random temperature checks. As things are going in the right direction, it's not the time to let off the gas, it's the time to keep doing what we're doing so we can stay on a trend of being safe.

Lastly, I just want to recognize that as we added more students to campus this week, the pick-up line when you pick up your child is long and I realize that. I've been in that line before. If you've been on campus on Thursday or Friday, you've noticed that we've cleaned up 22 parking spaces in the junior parking lot. Now when you come onto campus, if you take a left at the stop sign to come down to the circle drive, if your child is not there and ready to be picked up, then we're going to ask you to move to one of those 22 spaces in the junior lot, which should help free up the traffic and expedite the pickup process. All that to say that everything on campus – from the way we do lunch to the way we do pick up and drop off – will constantly be evaluated and improved as we learn along the way. But, this is the end of the first week of having all of our students on campus and it's been very well received. We've done a great job, our teachers are amazing as they continue to work multiple jobs, taking care of the students who are at home and tending to those in their classroom.

All in all, we're really pleased with where we're going. We've got a lot of work ahead of us and we'll keep making TMI the best we can be. Again, the Walker Innovation Center will be open for viewing very soon. Can't wait to have you back on campus. Have a great weekend. Enjoy the three-day weekend for some of you, a four-day weekend for some, and a 5-day weekend for others. You've earned it; enjoy it. Take care of each other, God bless, I love you. Go Panthers.

**The Rev. Scott J. Brown**

Husband to Kimberly

Father to Parker, Christopher and Angelene

Spurs Fan

Golf Fanatic

Head of School