

Hello, TMI! As of today, we have welcomed back all seven grades on campus and we are continuing to work to make sure that each day is better than the last. This is Father Scott Brown and I'm delighted to give you your Friday update for September 25th.

While I'm so pleased with how this past week has gone, I know that we have a lot of room to grow. This was our first experience this week of actually executing the plan that we put in place over the past few months and this is new territory. Therefore, our academic leadership team, our Incident Command Team, and our COVID-response teams have all been meeting more frequently to ensure that they continue to assess and improve everything we've done on campus to ensure your child can be as safe as possible.

In just the past few weeks, our academic teams have also continued to meet to analyze everything from drop off and pick up to how many books your students carry. Our faculty and staff are committed to providing an exceptional educational experience for your students – for our students – and every day they come to work and they make it even better than the last.

We've identified and found some ways to make things more efficient and we'll continue to improve. These past two days, Thursday and Friday, saw the largest group of students on campus, to date; our 10th, 11th, and 12th graders were here Thursday and Friday. Given the long time frame that we put in place for lunch, also the Corps having formation during lunch, the seniors having experienced lunch on campus when they were here last week, I can tell you that that process is improving as well. We will continue to plan, assess, review, tweak, and make improvements to all aspects of campus so that we can understand how to best serve our community – and we understand that lunch is one of the most complex parts of our day!

That's why we started back in small groups, so that we can see our plans in action and then see what is working, what is not, and then make adjustments along the way. This process has allowed us to crawl, walk, run back to campus and we'll continue that model as we move closer and closer to all students coming back to campus on October 5th. But here's the thing. We can only all come back to campus on October 5th, and then stay on campus after October 5th, if our community continues to do their part to keep us safe.

We need every member in our community to commit to doing better about following the protocols and procedures that we put in place. That means, TMI, you have to wear your mask at all times when you're not eating; it means you have to continue to social distance and keep 6 feet apart; you have to wash your hands frequently; and it means that before you come to campus,

you must complete the screening form and do so with honesty and integrity. The tools that we put in place will allow us to better protect our community and to do our part in continuing to prevent the spread of COVID-19 to the best of our ability.

At TMI, we are continuing to track and rely on the data from Metro Health, along with our own medical consultants, to help guide us and make decisions that are best for TMI. And while I'm proud to say that the current school risk in San Antonio is in the yellow zone – and that may make some of us feel safer – this is not the time to relax. Our goal continues to be to return to campus with the entire student body on campus on October 5th. But, as I said earlier, that's dependent on you. Everyone must continue to do their part.

I'm proud to say that we have zero positive cases in our community at this time. And students, I want to be really clear here, we understand that wearing a mask all day and socially distancing from the friends that you haven't seen in months is a challenge. Trust me, we get it. But if you're not wearing your mask at all times (other than while you're eating), if you're not spreading out like we've asked you to do at lunch, then you are putting the entire community at risk and if you put this community at risk, you will not be allowed to come to campus. Students, you have a choice: wear your mask properly and stay spread out or stay home. We have worked too hard to not hold you accountable. We want to be back on campus – and we want to stay on campus – and that means you have to step up and follow the rules.

Next week is our hybrid week with 6th, 7th, 8th, and 9th grade here on Monday and Tuesday. Our Community Day is on Wednesday and 10th, 11th, and 12th grade will be here on Thursday and Friday.

Parents, students, teachers, as it has been from the beginning, your voice is really important to us in this process. That's why today, we're sending out a survey along with this update and we want your feedback. We're asking parents, students, faculty, and staff to complete the survey and let us know how this first week of instruction on campus has been. The survey is short and it's open-ended. It's intended for you to tell us what's on your mind and what's on your heart.

We've achieved a lot in these past few months in preparing and planning for our students to come back to campus. Now, we have to remain disciplined in order to come back to campus and stay on campus. And I know we can do this. We have great students. We have great families. We value this place. We value our programs. We value each other. We've done so well so far TMI, keep up the good work.



TMI EPISCOPAL

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I love you, and I can't wait to see you soon. Go Panthers.

**The Rev. Scott J. Brown**

Husband to Kimberly

Father to Parker, Christopher and Angelene

Spurs Fan

Golf Fanatic

Head of School