

Hello, TMI! Fr. Scott Brown here with another Community Update. If you've been reading your emails, you have noticed a handful of notices regarding COVID cases in our community over the past few weeks, including a new update earlier this week. First, I want to start off by saying "THANK YOU" to our parents who have been transparent in letting us know during these past few weeks if they have had a positive COVID case in their household.

I can also tell you that zero of the potential cases we have tracked thus far originated on our campus. We are also nearing the completion of volleyball season in which we have had zero cases or potential cases. What we are doing *at school* is working. Even so, it is inevitable that we will encounter exposures or potential exposures to COVID in TMI households. So I want to make sure everyone understands that if your child experiences a potential first-hand exposure, your child will be asked to quarantine for 14 days from the original exposure.

Unfortunately, you can't "negative test" out of quarantine. If you have been exposed or potentially exposed first hand, you will have to quarantine the entire 14 days in order to allow for the virus' incubation period to play out. I know this can be frustrating and inconvenient. I don't like anything about this. I just completed a call with all of the Independent School Heads in Texas and not one of them is allowing their students to test out of quarantine. We are following the guidelines of the CDC, Metro Health, our own medical consultants, and it's what's best for over 400 students and 100 faculty and staff who come here each day so that we can keep everyone as safe as possible.

You've also probably already heard or seen that the positivity rate is climbing. But, I want to remind everyone that this is not the only metric to watch. The City of San Antonio is currently showing a 90-day doubling rate on their progress and warning indicators chart and the school risk level is still at the lower end of moderate. While I know many of you are tired of this virus, it is not the time to let our guard down. We need to keep practicing social distancing and wearing masks to do our part in keeping cases down and keeping everyone on campus.

With that, I want to reiterate that if you do have a positive case in your household or you or any of your family members experience any of the symptoms listed on our daily screening form, please keep your child at home and keep in touch with us. You can reach Nurse Stacy Smith by email or by calling the school. A failed screening form will always have the number to reach Nurse Stacy and we've included her office number in the email with this message. The last thing I want to say relating to COVID, is that we will continue to update our own TMI COVID

dashboard regarding positive cases on our campus and you can find that every Friday in News & Notes.

This last weekend in October also brings with it the end of the current three-week block for selecting in-person or remote instruction for your TMI student. For students currently attending classes remotely, the Admissions Office will reach out to you to confirm your selection for the next three-week block, which begins on Monday, November 2nd, and goes through Friday, November 20th. That will then take us up to the Thanksgiving break, which runs the week of November 23rd-27th.

We know that for many families, Thanksgiving and the holiday season means traveling and family gatherings. I do want to remind everyone that if you are traveling or visiting family, please use good judgement to keep you and your family safe and healthy; this year, more than ever, you're not just protecting your own family, but the entire TMI community as well. For many of you who are wondering whether we will have in person classes after the Thanksgiving break, the answer is yes. Returning to campus after Thanksgiving break is consistent with all other ISAS and SAES San Antonio Schools.

When we return to campus after the Thanksgiving break, that will also be the start of another three-week block for selecting remote or in-person instruction that will run from November 30th through December 17th, if you already know that you would like to keep your TMI student home following the break, please feel free to reach out to Aaron Hawkins, our Director of Enrollment Management, now.

As a reminder, for students who are currently attending classes on campus, if you would like to switch to remote instruction, parents must complete the Remote Instruction Selection Form that is included as a link with this video. And, finally, if your child is currently attending in person classes and will continue attending in-person classes, no action is required to continue with your selection of in-person instruction.

To be clear on our policy regarding the choice of in person or remote instruction, it is our preference that you choose one or the other for a three week timeframe. However, if you are nervous about the upcoming Thanksgiving break or have any concerns about sending your child to campus, even if it's for only one week or just a few days, call Aaron Hawkins. You deserve to choose when your child comes to school and when they stay home. We want you to have that choice. Doing so daily or switching back and forth too often is problematic for our faculty and

staff, that's why we ask you to make a three-week decision. However, talk to us if you need to adjust that. We want to work *with* you.

We also realize that there is a chance we may need to pivot from the current instruction model to either a hybrid or remote model during the next few months and a shift like that would likely be done quickly. So I want to assure you that *if* that happens, for example, if we have a positive case on campus and faculty, students, and staff are exposed to a confirmed case, that may mean a quick shift, so I want you to know that we are prepared and ready to adapt as needed. But, ensuring your family stays safe during any possible holiday travel and that you and your family continue to practice social distancing, wearing your masks and washing hands, will all help us to stay on campus.

The last topic I want to discuss in this update is the end of this academic semester. This year, we are not going to hold the traditional two-hour, end-of-semester exams that we would normally hold during the last week before the Christmas break. What this means is that Quarter 1 and Quarter 2 will each account for 50% of the total Semester 1 grade.

It also means that our faculty will be able to continue with instruction to cover new topics and material instead of ending instruction early to begin review sessions and conduct the exams. Our faculty will conduct assessments during the last week of classes in December that are consistent with the ways they've been teaching and evaluating in each of their classes throughout this entire semester. A detailed email will be coming next week that outlines classes for December, including AP exams and the last week of classes before the break.

I know there is a lot to take in and COVID continues to keep us alert and constantly adapting in the way we do things on a daily basis. I am grateful for the trust and confidence you have put in all of our faculty and staff here at TMI by choosing to partner with us in your child's education, especially during this time of COVID. We have had many unusual challenges this year and I'm thankful that we are all back on campus together right now. Let's continue to do our part to fight this virus and do everything we can to stay on campus.

Lastly, as we approach election day, I want to remind you that our theme this year is LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR! And I'm quite confident that when Jesus added love of neighbor to the top of the commandment list, he was calling us to love those who don't look like us, think like us, talk like us, live like us or vote like us. So go vote, talk to your children about the election, engage in fruitful conversations with them and others. But, be civil. Be kind. No matter what



happens in this election, we still need each other and we still belong to one another. So love your neighbor...It's what we're called to do and who we're called to be.

Happy Halloween! Go Panthers!

The Rev. Scott J. Brown

Husband to Kimberly

Father to Parker, Christopher and Angelene

Spurs Fan

Golf Fanatic

Head of School