

Hello TMI,

Congratulations on completing the craziest academic year of your entire life! I am so proud of our faculty and our students for pivoting during the 4th quarter as we shifted to remote instruction over Spring Break.

TMI is a **STRONG** academic institution. We have 127 years of successful academic delivery and we did not compromise on that this academic year, despite the curve ball we were thrown in this final academic quarter.

As we begin to look ahead to next school year, I know that many of you want to know **EXACTLY** what August looks like. I understand you want answers. I want them too. Yet it would be irresponsible of me to tell you exactly what next year looks like. Things change too quickly. There is simply too much we still don't know about local, state, and federal regulations and guidelines surrounding COVID-19.

That is why I am committed to giving you this update today and then following up with a new update every two weeks throughout this summer. This update will not answer every single question you have, but it will, I hope, show you how hard we are working and how much we are preparing to welcome you back to campus on August 20 and to remain on campus as long as we are allowed and it is safe to do so.

Everything we have done and will do this summer is aimed at opening our gates and welcoming students, faculty, and staff back to campus in August and keeping them on campus throughout the semester. As I visit weekly with Independent and Episcopal School leaders in San Antonio and across the state and country, one thing we all have in common is our recognition that our schools were never intended to be remote institutions.

Believe me when I tell you that it was a disappointment for our teachers not to be able to see our students in their classrooms every day. We know that spending the last quarter at home was not where our students wanted to be, because it's not where our teachers and coaches wanted to be either. Making that sudden and unexpected shift to virtual school was hard, for **EVERYONE!**

We want to be on campus all of next year. We are planning to be on campus all of next year. But we know that remote instruction might be a necessity. If we do return to remote instruction, it will be along with local public schools and in communion with other Episcopal and Independent schools in our area. In preparing for that, we have faculty teams working together to take what we learned during the spring and developing online practices that make for better experiences for students – consistent methods and schedules that also allow for flexibility in meeting the needs of each student. We had one week to

prepare for the shift to remote instruction. If we are forced to return to that methodology, we will be much more prepared.

I have asked a group of administrators, teachers, and medical consultants to come together to form an Academic Response Team for our school. This team undertook the task of evaluating and planning for a variety of operational scenarios that may occur over the course of this next year, including increased social distancing and a return to remote instruction. Again, not our preference, but we must be prepared.

We are also lucky/blessed to have Dr. Tricia Hilliard and Dr. Linda Cook serving as consultants to our Academic Response Team. Dr. Hilliard and Dr. Cook are both board certified, primary care pediatricians. Additionally, Dr. Cook holds a Postgraduate degree in Infectious Diseases. They both are current or former TMI parents and know our community well. Working in coordination with Stacy Smith, TMI's Health Care Coordinator, they're helping us ensure that our plan for reopening campus is based on informed medical advice.

No matter what next year brings, we know that school will look different when we return. We're committed to doing our part to keep everyone in the TMI family safe. We're planning for increased cleaning and sanitizing of spaces; changes to those times in the day we would normally gather together, such as lunch and chapel; and modifications to our schedule that increase social distancing. Expect that every student, faculty, and staff member will be screened before arrival on campus. Bottom line is that we are going to follow the safety protocols recommended to us, with the goal that we can be together, in person, as much as possible.

The Academic Response Team has planned for scenarios ranging from minor virus resurgence to a strong second wave of infections. We are ready – regardless if school takes place in person, through a hybrid model of on campus and remote learning, or full remote instruction.

We have prepared a Reopening Guidebook. The link to that document is included in this communication. This Guidebook is intended to help you understand the process of coming back to school in the fall, the different scenarios our Academic Response Team is looking at, and our commitment to health and safety as we reopen. This is a living document that we will share with the community and it will be updated throughout the summer.

Speaking of summer, by now you know that we have cancelled all our on-campus activities for Summer At TMI. We made this decision after looking at various logistics involved with keeping the campus sanitized; ensuring we had proper pre-screening protocols in place, along with adequate stocks of health and safety supplies; and whether training was in place for outside organizations coming onto our campus during these unique times.

Our priority is getting TMI students back on campus, but we won't do that until it is safe and the procedures are in place to keep them safe. The academic classes that were a part of Summer At TMI and already transitioned to an online format are still being held – some even started earlier this week. Along with our on-campus summer programs, we are also not allowing outside rentals of our spaces and athletic facilities this summer until we prepare for our own community to come back to campus safely. Our Athletic Director and his staff are currently working on a comprehensive plan to get our student athletes back onto campus for practices and outdoor activities...and we hope to begin welcoming our student athletes back to campus in early July. Stay tuned for more in the coming weeks.

As we plan for next year, I want to give you an update from our Office of Admissions. Prior to COVID-19, we were on pace for another record enrollment. The office of Admissions is excited to get back to campus this summer so that they may continue their work with families and strive to reach our enrollment targets for next year. As of today, we will be welcoming 32 new 6th graders and 90 9th graders for the 20-21 school year. A big welcome goes out to all of our new families.

A huge part of our TMI community is our Residential Life Program. This program has made some significant enhancements to the boarding experience for next year. TMI will be offering private rooms for all boarding students and has created small family units with a focus on student health and safety.

All boarding students will undergo a 14-day quarantine upon arrival and we will coordinate the arrival dates of our international and domestic students starting in July. We have 36 boarding students enrolled from across Texas, Michigan, New York, Korea, Panama, Vietnam, China, Taiwan, and The Republic of Moldova. The boarding program continues to bring a unique sense of culture and community that enriches the lives of all students at TMI.

As we prepare to reopen and do so safely, I'm excited to announce that our first planned gathering is for us to host graduation on campus for our Class of 2020 graduates at the end of this month on June 26. With graduation being held outdoors, we're prepared for social distancing and ready to implement many of the health and safety procedures that you'll see as we reopen campus this fall, including pre-screening checks and lots of hand sanitizer.

We are limiting the guest list to five guests plus the senior. For many of our families, this means tough decisions on who can attend and who can't. We know that's not ideal. It's not what we wanted either. Our own faculty are being asked to help usher rather than take up seats from families of seniors. We are all compromising so much and nothing about this is ideal. We get it.

We also recognize that you have seen other schools do other things to honor their classes and that likely leaves you wondering why we can't do the same. I call this the Pinterest Effect. We don't have Texas

Motor Speedway. We don't have parking for 1,000 cars. We don't have space to line the field with vehicles and allow grandparents to watch from the front seat. We do, however, want to do what works for us, what allows us to honor our seniors as best we can. It is not perfect but it's better than virtual. Speaking of virtual, we are working to have a livestream of the event for those who can't be on campus.

While we are doing everything possible to ensure a safe opening this fall, we can't predict the future. We ask you to remain flexible and expect change.

I've never been whitewater rafting, perhaps some of you have. But what I do know about it is that before you get in the water, you make a plan, you use a map, but the river is always changing. Therefore, you must be prepared, but you must expect the unexpected. This summer feels a little like we're preparing for such a trip.

What I also know about whitewater rafting is that the only way to have zero risk is to never get in the raft. Likewise, the only way to have zero risk on our campus for COVID-19 is if everyone stays home.

As we continue to prepare for a return to campus in August, we will continue to do reasonable things, we will stay informed and we will depend on our Academic Response Team and the consultation of medical professionals.

Instead of staying home, we're preparing for the ride. We're mapping the course. We're preparing the way. And we're expecting to be surprised. But no matter what comes our way, we'll be ready. We will stay flexible and we will stay informed and we ask you to do the same.

I will have another update for you on June 19th. Until then, please reach out with any questions. We belong to one another and we look forward to the day that you, God's Holy People, will be back in this Holy Place.

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