

# Trinity-Pawling School

A BRIDGE TO THE FUTURE — REOPENING CAMPUS

Academic Year 2020-2021



...to educate and instill a value system that prepares young men to be contributing members of society amidst the challenges of an ever-changing world.

# A Message from Headmaster Bill Taylor



Dear Parents,

I hope that this letter finds you well, your family in good health, and enjoying the nicer weather of the summer!

In such a challenging moment in our lives, I cannot think of a stronger argument for the relevance of a dynamic, personalized, and transformative educational experience in the lives of adolescents who are preparing to successfully navigate the demands of an ever-changing world. I cannot think of a stronger case for the relevance of a Trinity-Pawling education.

As I reported to you three weeks ago, Trinity-Pawling is planning to reopen for in-person instruction for the 2020-2021 school year. As I underscored then, there is a strong argument to be made for the value of a small boarding school experience in the midst of this health and, now, social crisis.

The purpose of this correspondence is to provide you with some additional details about this plan. These details have emerged largely from the work of our various task forces that have been researching the impact that safety measures associated with COVID-19 will have on specific areas of school life. They have also been made in accordance with the recommendations and information from local health professionals, the CDC, the State of New York, and other organizations such as the National Association of Independent Schools (NAIS), the New York Association of Independent Schools (NYSAIS), The Association of Boarding Schools (TABS), and the Educational Advisory Bureau (EAB).

First, however, I want to underscore the obvious. COVID-19 and its related challenges are highly fluid. Information changes daily and our plans at this point, while well-researched and reflective of careful insight, will be subject to change as the information about the virus and its mitigation changes. The School will communicate with you about changes in these plans if and when it may become necessary. Much of the plans, however, are comprehensive so that we anticipate very little change to occur in this academic year (the yearly calendar, academic schedule, course configurations, etc.).

As we work through the rest of the summer, the School will continue to be in communication with you regarding more specific details pertaining to the School year. For now, however, please note the following information for your planning purposes.

Onward!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "William W. Taylor". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping initial 'W'.

William W. Taylor  
Headmaster

# The Yearly Calendar



Below, please find some of the key dates pertaining to the yearly calendar for the 2020-2021 school year. Important points that have contributed to this planning include:

- We are planning to begin the year a week early, with students arriving in a staggered plan from August 29-31, 2020. We will plan orientation activities before classes begin on September 7, 2020.
- The recommendation is to minimize large-scale departures and returns to the campus. You will see that our Fall Term will conclude, as normal, with the Thanksgiving break. Students, however, will remain home for the two weeks prior to Christmas break. During this time, most students will be working on their interdisciplinary Winter Projects that will be guided by their instructors remotely. Juniors will be working on their Junior Collaborative Challenge, with the remote guidance of their instructors.
- We will plan for a Remote Parents Weekend to avoid an increased visitor base to the campus.
- The Spring Vacation and the conclusion of the school year remain the same as in our previous calendar.
- To avoid many people coming and going from campus at one time, we will not have our Long Weekends in the Fall and Spring. We will also not have Mid-Winter Break in February. Instead, we will have mini-breaks on campus for the students to give them time to recharge and rejuvenate.

## 2020-2021 Calendar

August 22, 2020  
Arrival of Students  
Requiring Campus Quarantine\*

August 29-31, 2020  
Boarding Students Return

September 1-6, 2020  
Student Orientation and Activities

September 7, 2020  
Classes Begin

October 16-17, 2020  
Virtual Parents Weekend

November 20, 2020  
Thanksgiving Vacation Begins

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November 29-December 16, 2020  
Remote Winter Projects

December 16, 2020  
Winter Vacation Begins

January 3, 2021  
Arrival of Students  
Requiring Campus Quarantine\*

January 8-10, 2021  
Boarding Students Return

January 11, 2021  
Classes Begin

March 5, 2021  
Spring Vacation Begins

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March 22, 2021  
Arrival of Students  
Requiring Campus Quarantine\*

March 26-28, 2021  
Boarding Students Return

March 29, 2021  
Classes Begin

May 29, 2021  
Commencement

May 31-June 4, 2021  
Underclass Examinations/Projects

June 4, 2021  
Summer Vacation Begins

\*If necessary

# Community Health and Hygiene



The health and hygiene standards and protocols that will be in place acknowledge the successful interplay between personal responsibility and the common good of the community as a whole in terms of health. With this in mind, the following measures will be in place.

The School will have testing protocols in place for the return to campus after a school vacation and after a boarding student leaves campus for personal reasons. If students leave campus for school purposes, they will receive a COVID-19 test at school. Boarding students must plan to have a negative COVID-19 test taken within four days before their arrival to campus. Any boarding student who leaves campus for personal reasons should plan on having a negative COVID-19 test prior to their return to campus.

All day student families will be asked to submit negative COVID-19 test results determined within the four days of the start of the school year. Day students will be asked to have their temperatures taken and comply with a health attestation to document how they are feeling each day.

There will be a tracing structure in place to be utilized in the event that a member of the community tests positive for the virus. Students who may have been in sustained contact with a person with the virus will be placed in isolation on campus (if a boarding student) or at home and monitored daily. Students will attend classes remotely during their quarantine.

At the advice of health professionals to best prepare for the health of the community, all members of the Trinity-Pawling community will be asked to receive a seasonal flu shot at the beginning of the school year.

There will be a dynamic hygienic plan for cleaning that will occur across the campus on a daily basis. The School has purchased several electrostatic cleaning devices that will sanitize surfaces thoroughly. Bathrooms and common areas will be thoroughly cleaned on a regular basis throughout each day.



**5:1**

STUDENT:FACULTY  
RATIO

**11**

students

AVERAGE  
CLASS SIZE

**9**

DORM  
UNITS

**140**

BOARDING  
STUDENTS



# Preventative Measures



There will be a commitment to social distancing and the use of masks/face coverings in certain circumstances.

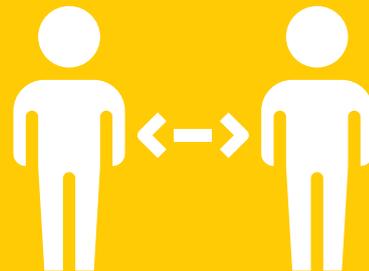
In terms of our residence halls, rooms will have two beds in them if they can be arranged in a manner that ensures the necessary safe distance between them. Beds will not be bunked. There will be no triple rooms. All other rooms will be single rooms.

Classrooms have been arranged with the necessary number of desks to ensure necessary distancing. A new academic schedule has been created that will allow for the concentration of people getting lunch in the dining hall to be spread out over three periods instead of two. Any access to the dining hall will be predicated upon the necessary distancing and sanitary measures that are recommended by health officials.

Our plans for community gatherings will also be forced to change due to the same recommendations regarding distancing. Yet, we will be creating opportunities for the community to gather in smaller groups.



Use of masks in certain circumstances



Social distancing for safety



Hand washing stations throughout campus

# Teaching and Learning



The School's plan is constructed with the belief that most students will be on campus for learning, but some may not be able to return until later in the year. As such, faculty are engaged in professional development toward augmenting its strength for a hybrid approach to teaching and learning: in-person instruction; synchronous instruction, for those who cannot be on campus but can engage the academic schedule remotely in real-time; and asynchronous instruction, for those who will need to engage learning remotely but will not be able to access the live classes synchronously.

There will be a new academic schedule in place for the 2020-2021 school year, but it will be a schedule that is based on in-person instruction that will look very similar to a regular academic schedule. For the 2020-2021 school year, we will return to a half day of academic classes on Saturdays, as the alternative learning schedule that was created last year is not well-suited for the needs for distancing and smaller sections that can be accommodated in a classroom setting.

Those families who would like to request consideration for remote learning (synchronous or asynchronous) should contact JP Burlington '95, Director of Admissions for more details.

CHALLENGING EVERY  
STUDENT TO MASTER

**21st**  
CENTURY SKILLS



**45**

TEACHERS PROVIDING  
FOR 24/7 LEARNING



**7**

FACULTY AND STAFF  
MEMBERS COMMITTED  
TO COMMUNITY  
HEALTH AND WELLNESS

# Athletics and Co-Curricular Activities



Trinity-Pawling will be committed to maintaining an athletic program during the 2020-2021 school year. At the present time, it is uncertain as to the specifics of this program.

The Founders League will be making a decision on interscholastic competition in mid to late July. Even if interscholastic competition is limited in the Fall Term due to the need for distancing, there will be sports-specific training and a commitment to player development that will be pursued throughout the year. Regardless of the nature of an interscholastic competitive schedule, there will also be a robust wellness and outdoor program that will be available to all students.

The School recognizes the importance of a rich co-curricular program in the life of the School. With this commitment in mind, we are exploring ways to provide an array of offerings that will be consistent with the School's commitment to the recommendations of health officials regarding concentrations of people in certain areas. Larger spaces and outdoor spaces will be leveraged to the fullest extent possible for such programming.

**230**

ACRE CAMPUS  
FOR OUTDOOR  
ACTIVITIES

**20,000**

SQ. FT.  
FIELD HOUSE

**24**

DEDICATED  
COACHES AND  
ATHLETIC  
TRAINERS

# The Trinity-Pawling Advantage



When it comes to reopening campus, Trinity-Pawling has distinct advantages over larger public schools, independent day schools, or even larger boarding schools with regard to student safety.

- Trinity-Pawling can provide robust health monitoring protocols because we have nurses who live on campus and a Health Center that is supervised on a 24-hour basis.
- Most Trinity-Pawling students board on campus, creating an environment where residents' health is easier to monitor and safeguard.
- Our Center for Learning Achievement, featuring our distinctive LEAD and ESP programs, benefits from a time-tested and unique curriculum that guides instruction, rather than merely providing a support structure for extra-help (something which is available from all of our faculty on a daily basis). All of this is highly accessible at Trinity-Pawling. While we succeeded at providing this type of distinctive programming remotely, its benefits are far more effective when we are all on campus.
- Most of the dormitories at Trinity-Pawling are small, and all of them are subdivided into smaller units which creates easier monitoring of social distancing parameters.
- Because we have a relatively much smaller day student population, especially compared to an all-day population, Trinity-Pawling can provide daily screening for students coming onto campus.
- Trinity-Pawling has a 230-acre campus with many areas to gather outside for meaningful purposes. By many accounts, the virus does not live as long outdoors, and the sunlight is a critical component in mitigating its virulence.
- Trinity-Pawling has limited entrances to campus which can be monitored. All deliveries can be re-routed to areas not frequented by students.

# Potential School Closure



Trinity-Pawling has no intention of initiating a school closure during the 2020-2021 school year. Any closure that would force the removal of students from campus would likely only occur if it were mandated by an executive order of the Governor of the State of New York. There is no way to predict if this would occur or not. However, if it were to happen, the School would continue to pursue a remote learning program for the period of time that the School would be forced to have the students leave the campus.

If the School were to be forced to remove its students from campus and move to a different remote learning schedule that is different than the 2020-2021 School Calendar, then there would be a refund of the variable costs that were not incurred during the course of the remote learning period.

*"This journey will be distinctive, life-changing, and evolving. We will continue to honor important traditions and the timeless values that have distinguished the Trinity-Pawling experience. Yet, we will also continue to be nimble in order to provide our students with the educational fortitude that will equip them with the skills and confidence to adapt."*

— HEADMASTER BILL TAYLOR