

MIDDLE SCHOOL

5TH GRADE THROUGH 8TH GRADE

Dear Middle School families,

I hope this note finds you all healthy and safe amidst this very challenging summer. It's hard to believe that we are now just four weeks away from the start of school, and though the TVS campus has been much quieter than usual this summer, there has been a significant amount of activity as it relates to our ability to reopen in person.

In the beginning, this involved combing through recommendations from local, state, and federal authorities, gaining insight from medical professionals within our community, measuring (and re-measuring) every nook and cranny of potential classroom space, reevaluating the technology needs in all spaces and seeking out all existing plumbing to add as many additional handwashing stations as possible. More recently, the maintenance team has been hard at work converting some of our spaces to more usable classroom spaces, and many of our teachers have helped us move furniture as we arrange each classroom for appropriate social distancing.

It has been encouraging to reconnect, in person, with the teachers who have helped us move furniture, and it was equally inspiring to meet with all of our Middle School teachers in grade-level video conferences last week. Your teachers are excited by our in-person return, but as the landscape shifts from day to day, they continue to give careful attention to planning for a period of distance learning, if necessary. To that end, all of our Middle School teachers have engaged in professional development through the summer, and in typical fashion, some have presented sessions to numerous area teachers as well. Because these opportunities have all taken place within a virtual or distance learning environment, our teachers have each gained extremely relevant insight into better understanding our students' experiences within this format.

In addition to the preparations for maintaining our robust academic program, our faculty and staff are also sensitive to what our children have gone through and will continue to go through as we all navigate the recent global challenges. We are building upon existing and developing new opportunities for students to socially connect, be physically active, and engage in experiences that provide positive social and emotional growth.

Parents, many of you have asked about the possible availability of remote, technology-aided access to a TVS education this year. As you have seen (or will see) elsewhere in today's communications, we are gauging your interest in what we are calling Trojan Learning Connection (TLC). Though we recognize this option may pose some logistical challenges, our Middle School grade-wide course offerings lend themselves to combining students learning on campus with those doing so from home. We are committed to doing our very best to provide a quality option to those students and families that might benefit from it.

Stay well and healthy,

Jeff Snyder
Head of Middle School