

# LOWER SCHOOL

## PRE-K THROUGH 4TH GRADE

Dear strong, passionate Lower School parents,

When I used to venture out to Six Flags or Disney World with my family, invariably, the first thing they would say was, “Please ride the roller coasters with us!” I’m not too fond of roller coasters. They are my least favorite ride in the whole world. They leave me feeling light-headed and like my brain has been tossed and turned in my head. Once off the ride, I eventually get my wobbly legs feeling sturdy again and press on, a tad bit prouder of myself that I made it through the ups and downs, sharp turns, and cavernous dips of the roller coaster. I imagine we have all felt that rollercoaster sensation for the past five months.

Here is what I know about the Trinity Valley family. When faced with adversity, as a community, we unite and come back stronger. I am incredibly proud of what we have done and will continue to do as a faculty and staff to provide the grandest of educational experiences for our children.

The day school was over in May, we stopped and looked back at what was, and what we desire for our children going forward. Every team spent time analyzing what worked great as we taught remotely, as well as areas of needed growth. Since then, 100% of our teachers have attended seminars, workshops, conferences, and webinars totaling over 700 hours. We have gained insight, strategies, creative approaches, and a myriad of shared ideas from all over the globe, and are stronger educators because of it.

We have studied and listened to leaders in the healthcare world regarding the best ways to support our families and children as we tackle COVID-19. Our cohorts have all been established to provide social distancing. Classrooms have been repositioned to enable more cohorts per grade level. Walls have been constructed or taken down to allow for spatial classes. Sinks have been added to all instructional areas. Tented areas will be set throughout our campus for outside classrooms. Our counseling staff are well positioned to assist on all levels of social-emotional needs for our families.

Amid much change, so much of TVS remains the same. Our hallways and classrooms will be filled with joy. Our passionate, committed teachers will be in the classrooms, ready to welcome our children “back home.” Music, art, languages, library check-out, physical education classes, Brain Breaks, and delicious lunches from Chef Erin will continue. Children will again be running on the lizard, climbing on the spider web, and enjoying many new outside areas in which to play.

We have read every question you have posed and have intently listened to the concerns of reopening our campus. We are aware of the desire of some families for us to provide technology-aided access to a TVS education. In today’s communication, we ask you to let us know of your family’s interest in what we are calling Trojan Learning Connection (TLC). Responding to this survey by the date requested will help us formulate an excellent plan for multiple options for the delivery of instruction.

I look forward to the day when I look out my office window at the smiles of our children enjoying a “normal” day at TVS. It is on the horizon. Grasp tight to the bar on the rollercoaster ride, and let’s find joy and strength together on this journey.

I have missed all of you beyond measure!

Sandy McNutt  
Head of Lower School