

# LOWER SCHOOL

## PRE-K THROUGH 4TH GRADE

Dear parents of our Lower School children,

I look forward to the day when I don't feel the need to begin every correspondence with, "Oh my goodness!" Last week, I made the analogy that life during COVID feels like riding a rollercoaster. The difference is that when I choose to ride a rollercoaster, it is ultimately my decision. A ride amidst COVID was not anyone's choice. However, I believe there is hope on the horizon. With the guidance given by the State of Texas Attorney General earlier this week, allowing us to make our own determination about the opening of school, we have encountered a win-win situation. Our families will have the opportunity to either return to on-campus learning or to experience the Trojan Learning Connection (TLC) option. Both will be conducted in grand TVS fashion. My personal choice for our children would be to return to school, where we would have the joy of interacting with our students, face-to-face. In-person teaching and learning will always be my preference for our children. However, that option is not feasible for some of our families. We are thrilled that TLC can meet the specific needs of that population. At TVS, our goal has always been to do whatever it takes to provide for our families.

We have included responses to some frequently asked questions in the Lower School. Over the next few days and weeks, I will continue to offer information and guidance, as we move forward in a world none of us has ever encountered. I have a favor that I feel I can ask of our LS families because I know your character and your hearts. Please grant us grace and patience as we roll out the new year. Our goal is to bring our children back on campus in the safest, healthiest, and most supportive way we can and to provide a stellar education for all - those who choose face-to-face and those who choose TLC options.

### **Trojan Learning Connection (TLC)**

In Lower School, students participating in the TLC option will be assigned in groups by grade to a single teacher. In these TLC cohorts, teachers will instruct students in small groups and individually, depending on the students' needs. The curriculum content will mirror what is being taught in the classrooms on campus, with the TLC teacher instructing and assessing students assigned to him or her. Progress will be noted and made known to the parents and to the student's on-campus teacher. This way, a student may readily resume work in his or her assigned cohort, if returning to on-campus at the beginning of a new quarter. Students will receive instruction and assignments virtually through the same platforms utilized at school, including Clever, Seesaw, and others. Students will have assigned log-ins, and they will receive a daily schedule set up by the TLC instructor. Supplies and books will be provided and delivered to the TLC students.

### **Health Protocols**

In collaboration with the doctors who serve as our acting medical advisors and with representatives from the Tarrant Health Department, our nurses have developed the COVID Protocols linked [here](#). We will use a self-reporting app that will require parents to do a temperature check and answer a handful of screening questions each day before their children may be on campus. I highly encourage our TLC cohorts to engage in completing the app, in order to acquire the habit in preparation for transition back to TVS on-campus learning when warranted by the family.

### **Start of School**

As you know, the first day of our new school year is Wednesday, August 19. While that date remains the same, not all students will report on this first day. Instead, we are utilizing a staged reopening that will help us to accomplish two significant goals. First, new protocols around hygiene and social distancing, technology, and other community activities will require extra training and discussion for students in all grades. Additionally, this gradual reopening will allow us to practice and to fine-tune the protocols we have in place, including drop-off, handwashing, and pick-up procedures, before the

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first day that we will have all of our students in the building. Detailed plans will follow at a later date, but for your planning purposes we share the re-entry times below.

The youngest children, our four-, five-, and six-year-olds, will require much support, as many enter our campus for the very first time. They not only need our help with all the new protocols, but this is the age child that needs the most emotional support.

Pre-K , Kindergarten, and 1st Grade  
Wednesday-Friday, August 19-21

These students will begin the school year first, and they will spend a shortened day on campus. They will begin the day at 8:30 a.m., and they will be dismissed at noon. Significant efforts will be made to introduce them to drop-off and pick-up routines. We will acquaint/reacquaint them to the TVS environment. They will spend time strengthening old relationships, making new ones, and meeting all of their teachers, the staff, and their classmates.

2nd Grade

Friday, August 21

Second graders will be welcomed back to campus on Friday, August 21. Their day will begin at 8:30 a.m., with dismissal at 2:50 p.m.

3rd and 4th Grades

Monday, August 24

Third and 4th graders will join us on Monday, August 24. Their day will begin at 8:30 a.m., with dismissal at 2:50 p.m.

Pre-K through 4th Grade

Tuesday, August 25 through Friday, August 28

Arrival: All students 8:30 a.m.

Dismissal: Pre-K and Kindergarten 12:00 p.m.

Grades 1-4 2:50 p.m.

In the coming days, watch for the following information:

- Details outlining our TLC options
- Procedures for purchasing lunches
- Evolving CDC protocols
- Assessing the academic needs of students
- Arrival and dismissal procedures/times
- Extended care and extracurricular programming ([forbesn@trinityvalleyschool.org](mailto:forbesn@trinityvalleyschool.org))

August 19 can't come soon enough! We have waited nearly six months to begin teaching our children again. Whether your child will be returning to campus or learning through the TLC, it will be a great day for all of the Trinity Valley community.

With much appreciation,  
Sandy McNutt  
Head of Lower School

P.S. If you have not done so already, please take a minute to complete the [survey](#) from Ms. Lowry's Wednesday communication asking families to indicate their preference for on-campus learning or the Trojan Learning Connection option. The survey closes at 8 a.m. on Monday, August 3.