



July 26, 2018

Dear Parents and Students,

As we get closer to the beginning of school, I want to share some information and thoughts about the first days of school. Several of these are simply meant to give you insight while reading the Parent/Student Handbook (published in August). Some of the following information is simply general answers to questions you might have at this time. I have added a few of my own personal annotations. Please read them as necessary and share with your child as we move forward. These are meant to be a survival guide for the first few days of school.

Please know you and your child are welcome at Holy Trinity. You may be finishing up with your last child or just beginning this process with your first. It really does not matter as long as you remember we will watch after your child's growth as a partner.

PlusPortal

As many of you know, Holy Trinity uses PlusPortals as our parent and student's main communication application. New parents should have received their activation emails beginning in May. PlusPortal will be used to communicate grades, class activities, and school happenings. Class schedules will not be visible until August 21. Students will receive credentials once school begins.

6th Grade Open House

We will host an open house for 6th graders on August 21st, 4:00-6:00. All sixth grade families are welcome to drop by the school in order to find out team placement, meet teachers and learn about opportunities at school. We will have forms to sign allowing your child to receive their Chromebook on the first day of school. Please remember this is an "open house" so come by anytime between 4:00 and 6:00.

6th Grade/New To MACS PTO Social

We will host a Social for 6th grade and New To MACS Families on August 21st, 6:00-8:00, following the sixth grade open house. All sixth grade and New to MACS families are welcome to greet old friends and make new ones at this event on the front field. There will be fun and games for all! Librettos food truck will be available for dinner. Smores and snow cones will be served. Please RSVP to [EVITE](#). Questions? Call Sarah Kernodle 704-968-2998.

New to MACS Student Pizza Party/New to MACS Parent Reception

The Counseling Department will host a pizza party in the library for all rising 6th, 7th, and 8th graders who are new to the Mecklenburg Area Catholic Schools on Monday, August 20th, 6:00-7:30. This evening will include pizza and tours. Please call 704-714-3267 to RSVP. This is





a new student only event to those who are not coming from one of our MACS feeder schools. The student pizza dinner will be held in the library. Please let us know when during the RSVP message if you have an allergy (example: gluten or wheat).

New to MACS parents are welcome to attend a reception by the PTO while their students are attending the pizza party, 6:30-7:30, in an adjoining room. This event is for parents of students who are new to the MACS system only.

“First Day” of School

We will be staggering the “first day” of school into three separate days. A staggered start allows our students to acclimate to the school and their classrooms with a smaller student body and by grade.

Wednesday, August 22nd: 8th Graders report to gymnasium for 1st day.

Wednesday, August 22nd: 6/7th Grade does not report to school

Thursday, August 23rd: 7th Grade report to the gymnasium for 1st day.

Thursday, August 23rd: 6/8th Graders do not report to school.

Friday, August 24th: 6th Graders report to gymnasium for 1st day.

Friday, August 24th: 7/8th Graders do not report to school.

Monday, August 27th: All students report to school.

Arriving the “First” Day

Please know we will take care of your child with respect while at school. There is no reason for you to park your car and escort your child into the building. The students will be greeted by the administrative team and teachers. Teachers will be on hand to help students get to where they are supposed to be. Scheduling/placements will be given at the beginning of the first day for all students. Students can be dropped off from 7:00-7:30 in the cafeteria for early school care any school day.

Carpool

If I have one piece of advice for parents during carpool, it would be to have patience during the first few weeks of carpool. We move 850 students on and off campus within a 30-minute time period during morning and afternoon carpool. Please remember teachers have the students’ safety in mind while completing this task. Short descriptions of carpool procedures are below and officially in the Handbook. Please drive slowly without using a cell phone.





Morning

During morning carpool, you will want to pull up your car as directed until the cars ahead of you come to a complete stop. While this does not allow you to stop your car right in front of your child's first class building, it does allow the cars behind you to move onto campus and off of Park Road. Please allow your child to exit only on the right side of your car when you stop. Unloading of students can only take place when there is a sidewalk on the right of your car.

A well kept secret of those who travel downtown from school is the Marsh Road method. You can turn right (only right is allowed) out of school and take your first right onto Marsh Road. Marsh Road will take you to South Boulevard. There is a light at this intersection giving you a safe path to downtown via South Boulevard.

THE OFFICER AT THE EXIT WILL NOT ALLOW LEFT-HAND TURNS DURING MORNING CARPOOL WHILE EXITING.

Afternoon

During afternoon carpool you will be able to form two lines (right two lanes) along the front of the gym and Mercy building before dismissal. We will dismiss the St. Ann Shuttle Riders first (2:45). These buses need to leave early so they can travel back to Holy Trinity to pick up their normal routes (left lane). The bus students will then be dismissed (3:00) with the carpool students. Bus students are asked to board their buses while carpool students look for and enter their cars. The buses must leave the lot for the carpool cars to begin moving. No student can be picked up on Park Road or the upper field.

During the carpool process, please know we will not move cars until all students are on the sidewalk or in a car. This is a safety measure to ensure all are secure when vehicles move. Please pay attention to the "carpool captain" directing traffic flow. Sometimes a car or two may be waved through the line without a child. If you end up going through the carpool line without a child, please pull to the right near the Administration Building (one story brick). This is a safe location where your child can walk to your car. Please let your child know to look for you when the teachers on duty call out "look for your car." This is the only time students are allowed to walk off the sidewalk and go to their car (no matter how close the car). If your child does not make it to the car because he or she doesn't see you, let them know it is ok – you are going to meet them in front of the Administration building. If you get stopped even though you have all your passengers, take this time to ask everyone in the car how their day went until it is your turn to move again.

My advice would be to arrive at 3:15 if you can. You will be able to drive onto the school campus without congestion.





St. Ann Shuttle

The St. Ann Shuttle can be a significant timesaver to parents. Any parent wishing to use this service must first register (fee associated) their child with MACS Transportation. This service is a privilege for our parents and students. Parents picking up from the shuttle are asked not to arrive during or before St. Ann's afternoon carpool. We want to keep their little ones safe. A teacher will be present to monitor proper pick up and supervision. Any parent who does not pick up their student by 3:15 will not be eligible to continue this service. Students are not allowed to enter any of the buildings at St. Ann unless a safety issue is present.

Supply List 2018-19

Each student should have one set of classroom supplies from the list below. Your child should clearly mark items with his or her name. All hardback textbooks are to be covered at all times after books are issued. Do not use contact paper or Scotch tape on hardback books. **SPECIAL NOTE:** Your child will be given his or her schedule on the first day of school. Because each child does not have an identical schedule, each teacher will send home a syllabus with supply needs.

Each student should have: padded Chromebook 11.6-12" sleeve, flash drive (minimum 4 GB), set of ear buds, backpack, #2 pencils, blue or black pens, looseleaf paper, 2 boxes of facial tissue, 2 rolls of paper towels, and 1 package of 3.5 index cards.

Supplies

Students can bring their supply list items during the first few days of school. All items do not need to be brought in on the first day. Many of you have been asked to bring paper towels, hand sanitizer, etc. Bringing all items on the first day will be difficult, especially if riding a bus. My advice would be to bring these items over the course of a few days. Teachers will give students specific supply lists pertaining to students' specific classes during the first two days.

Lunch

Student ID/Lunch cards will be issued during the first week of school. My advice would be to send a packed lunch or cash until your child's card is set.

Chartwells (Compass Group Corporation) is our cafeteria service and food provider. You will be able to add to your child's balance once their card is activated. Additionally, you will be able to review your child's purchases online. Please use this system to keep abreast of foods being purchased. While a pizza, hot dog or hamburger might be ok sometimes, parents can discuss





healthy choices with their child by checking online periodically. There are plenty of healthy choices available at the cafeteria.

Breakfast is available before the school in the cafeteria.

Uniforms

Students are required to wear uniforms on the first day. Each student should make sure their shirt is tucked into their kilt, shorts or pants. Please refer to PlusPortals or the Handbook for the proper uniform code. All students should wear their Dress Uniform (Mass Uniform) to school on days we celebrate Mass. Students are also asked to wear the Dress Uniform the day that they are competing in a sporting event representing one of our teams (Friday for Football players and Cheerleaders) and on guest speaker days.

- [Add Logos](#) sells shirts, ties, and kilts approved for Holy Trinity. *9555 Monroe Rd, Matthews NC*
- [Brand RPM](#) sells hoodies and athletic wear approved for Holy Trinity.
- Flynn Ohara sells kilts and shirts approved for Holy Trinity. *1730 Abbey Pl, Charlotte NC*
- Pants and shorts can be purchased anywhere as long as they conform to Uniform Policy.

Key/ID Cards

Student keycards and IDs will be issued as quickly as possible for the new school year. These keycards and IDs must be worn as part of the uniform beginning on the day of issue. Doors will be programmed to open until the process is complete if needed; however, our goal is to issue cards on the first day of school. We will be having students leave their keycards in homeroom at the end of the day. Keycards will be picked up each morning by students in homeroom as well. Replacement cards and lanyard can be purchased within the school office.

Schedules/Team Placement

Paper schedules will be given out to the students within the first couple of hours on the first day. **Parents and students will be able to access schedules on PlusPortals. Please do not call to change or request team placements as these will not be honored. Please remember course selection sheets offer student and parent preferences for courses. We do our best to honor these, but, statistically, it is impossible to schedule every student into every course they request.**

Students can inquire with their grade level administrators once school has begun if a student's schedule has a conflict (i.e. two classes scheduled in the same period).





Early Pickup and Drop Off

You are asked to send in a note when picking up your child early. This saves valuable time waiting on your child and allows the office staff to coordinate with your plans. It also drastically reduces distractions to classes by not having to phone a teacher in the middle of class.

If your child is arriving late, you must either walk your child into the office or send them with a note. This allows the support staff to know that your child is here safely. Please support the office staff with this requirement.

Forgotten Items

Each team will have a cubby outside of the office for any items brought by parents to school after the day has begun. Teams will schedule students to check the team cubby periodically throughout the day. Classes will not be disturbed for forgotten items.

Sports

[2018 Fall Sports Sport Letter](#)

[2018 Fall Sports Registration Payment](#) (Soccer, Volleyball and Tennis payments will be accepted after tryouts)

[Cross Country Letter](#)

Sports Study Hall

Study Hall will begin for all applicable sports on the first day of school. Students should listen to announcements at the end of each day to hear where each study hall will be located.

Sports Shuttle

Sports shuttles will be available for student-athletes at 5:00 and after football practice. The fee and registration must be complete with MACS Transportation prior to use of the shuttle. The shuttle will begin on the first day of school and operate Monday through Friday, assuming practice is happening. Shuttle stops will be CCHS and St. Matthew. Each season of athletic participation requires separate registration and fee.

Afterschool/Transportation Program

The [MACS Afterschool Program](#) and [MACS Transportation \(bus service\)](#) will continue to offer programs at Holy Trinity.

Volunteering

Holy Trinity's PTO is a vibrant organization which helps fund school improvements and coordinates many events. There are many different ways to become involved within our school. In addition to the PTO, the Holy Trinity Athletic Association and MACS Education Foundation offer many volunteering opportunities. Please get involved.





Middle school students want to see their parents participating in a positive capacity. If your child tells you otherwise, my advice is not to listen. With this said, do not give them hugs or kisses in front of their friends (they are serious about that one)! Your volunteering makes them feel good and is great role modeling for one day when they have their own children.

Holy Trinity Facebook Page

I want to make you aware of our Holy Trinity Catholic Middle School Facebook page. Please feel free to “like” the page if you use Facebook in order to read about items including school closings and delays as well as general celebrations of our school and students as they happen.

Because the best communication method to discuss concerns and individuals is a direct method - not social media, I ask comments posted to the page be positive in nature celebrating our school community. Posts deemed potentially negative to our Catholic community and the Catholic Church will be deleted and the poster potentially blocked. Feel free, as always, to contact me directly about concerns as they emerge. The school Facebook page is not the appropriate medium for debate on school matters. It is important we model good behavior online to our children. PlusPortals, email, and voice call will continue to be the school’s main avenue of school information.

The page can be found by simply typing “Holy Trinity Catholic Middle School” into your Facebook search bar or just click [HERE](#). The next step would be to simply “like” the page. Holy Trinity is not associated with any other Facebook pages.

Special Needs

Every student at Holy Trinity will be treated as an individual while still being required to maintain school discipline and work requirements. If you feel there is specific information you need to convey to your child’s team of teachers, I ask you to email or call your child’s team leader during the first week of school in order to communicate the need. You will be able to access this information when the schedules are posted.

While realizing this is a lot of information for our new parents and students to digest, it is meant to make the beginning of the year a little easier for you and your child. Our teachers, administrators and staff are eager to begin the school year! Please pray for them and the students as we begin another year of growing deeper in our Faith, prayer life, and academics.

God Bless,

Kevin Parks
Principal

