



August 19, 2021

Trinity Lutheran Christian School Family,

Trinity Lutheran Christian School is excited to welcome all of our returning and new families back to school for the 2021/2022 academic year. Thank you for choosing Trinity Lutheran Christian School for your children's education. We are humbled to be able to serve you. The opening of a school year is my favorite time of year as I realize that God has blessed us richly with your children and with your family. Even as I enter my 43rd opening I get chills of excitement. We look forward to a year filled with faith, friendships, learning and fun.

The theme for the school year is **"Shout for Joy!"** May we shout for joy over Your victory and lift our banners in the name of our God." Psalm 20:5. TLCS will celebrate the Lord every day in our classrooms and corporately in Chapel on Wednesday's to sing praises, learn and worship throughout the year. Chapel services will be divided into the three divisions for worship that is geared to the specific age with holiday services involving all of our students together. Spacing will occur in these settings. Please remember that the Trinity Sanctuary can hold over 1,000 people so we will be fine. Each student in all divisions will receive a "Theme T-Shirt" which will be worn each Wednesday.





As I reflect on the last year and excitedly anticipate this year, there are so many reasons for us to praise God for the many blessings/gifts He bestowed upon us.

- His continual guidance
- A Covid rate that throughout the course of the year was a fraction of our county, our state and our nation.
- Collegial relationships and execution between parents, students, staff and administration all orchestrated by God's loving hands.
- Practices that kept TLCS ahead of the curve that can continue to be safety baselines.

As we “**Shout for Joy**” this year we will continue to take the following precautions/measures as part of our daily routines:

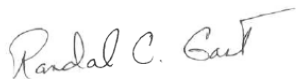
- **THE MARYLAND CORONAVIRUS WEBSITE TRACKS THE DAILY AVERAGE NEW CASES PER 100,000 PERSONS IN THE PRIOR SEVEN (7) DAYS. TLCS WILL FOLLOW THE CASE COUNT FOR HARFORD COUNTY AS THAT IS WHERE THE MAJORITY OF OUR STUDENTS AND STAFF RESIDE. COUNTY TRANSMISSION LEVELS WILL BE MONITORED DAILY BY MRS. BLAHUT AND MASKING CHANGES, IF WARRANTED, WILL BE IMPLEMENTED AT TLCS AT THE BEGINNING OF EACH WEEK. WHEN TRANSMISSION RATES ARE LESS THAN 7.1 MASKING WILL BECOME A PARENTAL CHOICE. 7.1 IS THE KEY. A TABLE WILL FOLLOW WITH INDICATORS. EACH SUNDAY, MRS. BLAHUT WILL REPORT TO MY OFFICE WHAT THE CURRENT INDICATOR TRANSMISSION RATES ARE. I WILL THEN PROVIDE A ONE CALL DETAIL FOR OUR FAMILIES TO GIVE GUIDANCE ON MASK PROTOCOLS FOR THAT WEEK. AS OF AUGUST 16, THE INDICATOR FOR HARFORD COUNTY WAS 13.14. AS OF AUGUST 18, THE INDICATOR IS 13.48. THE 7 DAY MOVING AVERAGE CASE RATE PER 100K AS OF AUGUST 19 IS 13.31 (-0.17 SINCE 8/18/21)**
- The building will continue to be sanitized and cleaned following COVID guidelines daily.
- Temperatures will be taken at all entrances.
- Hand sanitizing stations will be located at the entrance doors.
- Portable washing stations will be in numerous locations around TLCS.
- Students will begin the academic year eating lunches in their classrooms.
- All birthday party/snacks must be store bought and individually wrapped.
- Students will remain spaced by three feet.
- Students will not be required to wear masks during outside activities. Personal choice is an option.
- The Before and After Care Program is run by our Early Learning Center. The ELC follows the guidelines of the OCC. Students in the Before/After Care Program are required to wear masks.
- While receiving the vaccine is a personal choice; I do encourage those eligible to receive the vaccine to do it.
- Students may opt to wear a mask even if it is not required.
- Field Trips will resume on a gradual/careful basis.
- Parents/Grandparents/Guardians will be permitted at Chapel Services on Wednesday; however you will sit with your child/grandchild spaced from others. **The Opening Chapel will be live streamed on the “TrinityJoppa” YouTube Channel and parents/grandparents/guardians will not be permitted to attend.**
- Those who have chosen virtual education will be able to continue in that manner.
- Children who are ill will not be learning asynchronously. If a student is ill, they should remain at home until better and will have the same number of days as absent to make up the work as per the student/parent handbook.
- Students will be permitted to return to school after a medical appointment provided they are not ill. They will go to the main school entrance this year upon return.

- Students will not change clothes for gym. Students will come to school dressed in their gym uniform.
- Families need to consult the school office when traveling so guidance on protocols may be given.
- TLCS will follow a hybrid regulation standard between Governor Hogan and the Harford County Health Department. This will maintain Health Department mask protocols that will enable us to only quarantine the infected individual rather than the entire class.
- If an entire class is absent due to contact tracing, synchronous instruction will be provided for all students impacted.

Indicator	 Low Transmission	 Moderate Transmission	 Substantial Transmission	 High Transmission
Average new cases per 100,000 person in the past 7 days	0-1.3 Parental Choice	1.3-7.0 Parental Choice	7.1-14.1 Masking	≥14.2 Masking

All of the Trinity family has a role to play to prevent any exposures, spread or an outbreak in our community. Let's all remain diligent, disciplined and mostly faithful to God in our care for selves and for others. I wish to thank you in advance as we work as a team to keep everyone safe and healthy. Please continue to monitor any symptoms your child may have and keep them home if they are not feeling well. My office strives for excellence and will continue to maintain the same standards which propelled TLCS safely through last year. I have cleared my entire day, tomorrow (devotions as exception from 8:50-9:10) from 6:00 a.m. until 7:00 p.m. if you would like to stop by and discuss. I prefer face to face rather than email.

In His Grace and Mercy,



Randal C. Gast
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 Trinity Lutheran Christian School
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