TRINITY AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT
231 Park Avenue, Washington, PA 15301
Phone: 724.223.2000

RETURN TO SCHOOL FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

The purpose of this document is to offer answers to many of your frequently asked questions. While it may not provide all specific details, the administrative team is working tirelessly to prepare for this school year in partnership with our community and our staff.

WHAT IF I HAVE ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS THAT AREN'T ANSWERED HERE?
- Contact your child's building principal.
- Email trinityfaqreopen@trinityhillers.net

CALENDAR
- **When will a final decision be made by the district?**
  - The district's Return to School plan will be approved by the school board on **Thursday, August 6**. The plan will be posted on the district website after that meeting.

REOPENING GUIDELINES
- **Why is Trinity unable to open 5-days a week to all students?**
  - Currently, the social distancing guidelines in place from the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania prohibit us from being able to provide all social distancing (such as 6-feet of space when unmasked and eating).
- **Which option should I choose?**
  - As educators, we believe that it is impossible to replace in-person instruction. It is our recommendation that your child enroll in the "A/B Schedule" option.
  - We also understand that may not meet your family's situation, which is why we are offering the Trinity K–12 Cyber option.
- **How will I notify the district of the choice of educational options for my child?**
  - Parents will receive a digital form to enroll in the Trinity K–12 Cyber option.
  - Unless you complete an "opt-in" form for the Trinity K–12 Cyber option, <u>all students will automatically be enrolled in the "A/B Schedule" option.</u>

A/B SCHEDULE
- **Will siblings be able to follow the same A/B schedule?**
  - Yes! All siblings within a household (K–12) will be scheduled on the same day.
  - Tentatively, we are looking at using last names alphabetically to determine our day assignments.
  - We are still working on the groups that will attend on "A" days or "B" days.

- **When will I know which group my child is in?**
  - We are working to get this information released as soon as possible. While it is a massive project, our administrative team is working tirelessly to prepare this information as quickly as we can.
- **What can I do to help prepare my child for school?**
  - Help model healthy behaviors such as social distancing, proper mask wearing, and hand washing.
  - Start to reestablish a routine (consistent bedtimes and wake times) approximately one week prior to the start of school.
- **Given the effects of online school or in-person guidelines (such as social distancing and masks), how will the district address making school engaging and fun?**
  - Our teachers are skilled with meeting the needs of our students. We believe that we can still deliver instruction engaging and fun, while still providing support for those students who need them. Our school counselors and social workers remain available to all students who need access to them.
- **If we choose to start in the Hybrid option but choose to transition our student to the Trinity Cyber school option later, what would that transition look like? Will there only be certain periods of the school year where that can happen?**
  - Yes. Students will be able to migrate in and out of options in a fluid fashion.
  - The goal of our cyber program is to mimic our in-person instruction and curriculum.
  - This will allow your child to change your choice fluidly between the hybrid and cyber options at any time.
  - Please notify your child's principal if you would like to change your instructional option.
- **If school is closed on Monday, would my child attend face-to-face on Wednesday to compensate? What about if school is closed on Friday?**
  - If schools are scheduled to be closed, there will not be a make-up day for the week. EXAMPLE: If school is scheduled to be closed on Labor Day, group A will only attend on Tuesday that week.
- **Will we be able to choose our set of days due to family/job circumstances?**
  - The administration is currently working to develop the schedule and the days of attendance for specific students. Siblings will be scheduled to attend on the same days. The administration will certainly consider the request.
- **Can classes occur outside instead of inside the building?**
  - Weather permitting, yes. All 6 buildings have significant outdoor spaces in which instruction in a variety of subject areas could occur.

TRINITY K–12 CYBER PLATFORM

- **What will the Trinity K–12 Cyber platform look like?**
  - The Trinity K–12 Cyber platform will mimic our in-person instruction and curriculum. Remote is "real time" instruction via a video feed from the classroom where the student can still interact with the discussion.
  - This is <u>not</u> going to be like the cyber program offered during the statewide shutdown at the end of the 2019–20 school year.
  - Trinity is investing in hardware, software, programming and staff development to provide an exceptional remote "live" educational experience.
- **What is expected of me as a parent if my child is part of the cyber program?**
  - Research shows that no matter the provider of cyber education, your child will need adult assistance at home to be successful.
- **Will there be a schedule to the school day through the cyber option? Specific times for specific areas of coursework?**
  - Yes the brick and mortar classroom activities will attempt to mimic instruction occurring in the online platform.
  - Students who choose the cyber option will have an opportunity to work in an asynchronous educational platform.
- **Will teachers be offered training to conduct cyber school or online instruction should we suddenly have to transition like we did in March?**
  - Absolutely. Nearly all professional development prior to the school year will be focused on COVID-19 safeguards and virtual instruction.
- **Will my child need to attend on a daily basis?**
  - Yes. Per the Pennsylvania Department of Education, all students must participate in 180 days of instruction for the 2020–21 school year.
  - Because daily lessons will build upon each other, it is essential to stay on track with the assigned workload.
- **My child is enrolled in cyber, but I want to switch to the "Hybrid" option. What group will he/she be in?**
  - All students will be scheduled to a group "A or B", even if they are enrolled in Trinity K–12 Cyber.
  - You will receive communication about your child's group at the same time as those in the "Hybrid" plan.
- **Would there be an opportunity for a student who is struggling to attend both A and B days (meaning 4 days/week)?**
  - No. Students will have access to a variety of supports in both settings. We remain committed to your child's success.

- **Would "live" remote classes allow the students to see the teachers lecturing to the opposite group?**
  - It is our intention to offer a variety of "live" experiences. The district is pursuing a platform that will allow students to interact with the teachers.
- **What supports are available via Trinity K–12 Cyber to my child?**
  - All Trinity students have access to their school counselor and/or social workers.
  - Teachers are available via live instruction, by email, by phone, or by appointment.
  - Virtual tutoring will be available at your building during after school hours.
- **How much of the school day would be the live teacher instruction or virtual socialization?**
  - Live Instruction will be available to students in the remote or virtual setting..
  - Live instruction may mimic the delivery of instruction in the classroom.
- **Will all the class offerings be available via Remote Learning?**
  - Most classes will be offered via Remote Learning, including, but not limited to, CHS, Honors, and Advanced Placement. Challenges exist, however, with some courses which require "hands-on" experiences including, but not limited to, Art, Engineering, and Instrumental Music.
- **If we choose to start in the Trinity K–12 Cyber option but choose to transition our child to the Hybrid option later, what would that transition look like? Will there only be certain periods of the school year where that can happen?**
  - The goal of our cyber program is to mimic our in-person instruction and curriculum, meaning that they get the same lessons on the same days.
  - This will allow your child to change your choice fluidly between the hybrid and cyber options at any time.
  - Please notify your child's principal if you would like to change your instructional option.
- **Will parents be able to preview the cyber platform before having to make a decision?**
  - When we finalize the coursework and delivery platform, parents will be able to examine the offering.
- **Will my child need to spend 7 hours a day on his/her device?**
  - The amount of "live" instructional time will depend on many factors, including your child's age, the content to be delivered, and the means with which the teacher is delivering such material.
  - As a rule of thumb, younger students will have less screen time than their older counterparts.

SANITATION/STERILIZATION PROCEDURES
- **What steps is the district taking to ensure the facility is clean?**
  - Trinity has invested in [state-of-the art cleaning technology](#) that will kill viruses both in the air and on surfaces. This is now a regular part of our cleaning routines.
  - The district will be cleaning all facilities nightly, limiting visitors and outside groups from using facilities, and cleaning frequently-touched surfaces throughout the day.
  - Hand sanitizer will be available for use in all classrooms, cafeterias, and playground areas.

HEALTH
- **What happens if a student or teacher becomes symptomatic during school hours?**
  - First, the student or teacher will leave the classroom immediately and report to the nurse's office or designated room.
  - The nurse will assess the student/teacher, including a temperature check and questions about any pre-existing conditions that may explain the symptoms.
  - As the situation warrants, the nurse will contact a parent/guardian to arrange for transportation off-site.
  - Staff and students with elevated temperatures will leave the building regardless of cause.
  - The student or teacher's desk area will be sanitized prior to further usage.
  - The student or teacher would need to follow the CDC and Pennsylvania Department of Health's guidance on returning to school.
  - The school will continue to operate as normally as possible until additional information becomes available on the student or teacher's status. There are many common reasons other than COVID-19 that could explain someone not feeling well at any particular time. Notifications would not be warranted in the absence of further details
- **Will students and staff have their temperatures checked upon entry?**
  - All students and staff will walk through a thermal imaging system that will identify students in need of additional screening by the school nurse.
  - Should a student or staff member show evidence of a fever exceeding 100.4ºF in the nurse's office, proper health protocols will be followed for exclusion from school.
  - More details about this technology will be posted on our website at a later date.
- **A student tests positive for COVID-19. What are the next steps?**
  - Because of safeguards put in place (such as minimal movement and assigned seating), we will be able to better trace potential contacts between the infected person and other persons with whom that person had contact.

- ○ We will work with the Pennsylvania Department of Education and local health agencies to determine the extent of needs to isolate/quarantine.
  - ○ All policies regarding confidentiality will be followed.
- **If and when we get a vaccine, will it be a requirement for school? Or optional, like the flu vaccine?**
  - ○ Vaccination requirements are set by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, not the local school district.
  - ○ If/when a vaccine is created, should the Pennsylvania Departments of Health and Education mandate such a vaccine, it will follow the same laws regarding school vaccinations as all other required vaccines.
- **What will be the protocol if a student or staff member tests positive or has exposure to someone that tests positive?**
  - ○ In every building we will identify an isolation room or area to separate anyone who exhibits COVID-like symptoms.
  - ○ School nurses and other healthcare providers should use Standard and Transmission-Based Precautions when caring for sick people.
  - ○ Safety procedures for safely transporting anyone who is sick home or to a healthcare facility, are developed and will be instituted.
  - ○ Notify local health officials, staff, and families immediately of a possible case while maintaining confidentiality consistent with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and other applicable federal and state privacy laws.
  - ○ Close off areas used by a sick person and do not use before cleaning and disinfection. Wait 24 hours before you clean and disinfect. If it is not possible to wait 24 hours, wait as long as possible. Ensure safe and correct application of disinfectants and keep disinfectant products away from children.
  - ○ Advise sick staff members and children not to return until they have met state DOH criteria to discontinue home isolation.
- **Will there be a protocol for a student or staff member that travels/vacations during the school year? (e.g. Negative tests, temperature taking, quarantine)?**
  - ○ Inform those who have had close contact to a person diagnosed with COVID-19 to follow CDC, DPH and other governmental guidelines if symptoms develop. If a person does not have symptoms, follow appropriate state DPH guidance for home quarantine.
  - ○ Follow CDC, DPH and other governmental guidelines concerning travel restrictions and follow-up requirements for individuals returning home from traveling.
  - ○ During any period of recommended isolation, students will have access to instruction through the Trinity K–12 Cyber program.

- **What if my child has allergies or another chronic medical condition that often mimics some of these same symptoms?**
  - Parents should communicate ahead of time (if possible) with the school nurse and alert them to these conditions, so that a plan is in place in the event symptoms develop during school. For example, in order to differentiate between asthma and COVID-19 related shortness of breath, when a student uses his/her inhaler, the symptoms should improve as expected. Or a student with chronic allergies having a mild cough and runny nose whose symptoms may be explained through clear improvement with an antihistamine

ATTENDANCE
- **Will attendance be tracked in the same way as it has in the past? If a student is COVID-19 positive, they will exceed 10 days of absence.**
  - Should a student test positive for COVID-19, we will work with the family to obtain medical documentation that shows the need for the absence.
  - We are working with other districts and the Pennsylvania Department of Education to determine what flexibility can be provided while still meeting our legal mandate.
  - An update relevant to this year will be provided once a comprehensive review is complete.

MASKS
- **Will the district make masks or face coverings mandatory for students/staff and enforce it?**
  - The District will be adhering to Governor Wolf's mandatory mask wearing order as long as it remains in effect. Acceptable coverings are outlined in the order issued by the Secretary of Health, Dr. Rachel Levine: https://www.governor.pa.gov/wp-content/uploads/2020/07/20200701-SOH-Universal-Face-CoveringsOrder.pdf.
  - Children two years and older are required to wear a face covering unless they have a medical or mental health condition or disability, documented in accordance with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act or IDEA, that precludes the wearing of a face covering in school. Accommodations for such students should be made in partnership with the student's health care provider, school nurse, and IEP/504 team.
  - Additionally, the District will be providing face shields for students and staff as an option and masks for those who do not have their own. Please note that students will have ample / scheduled opportunities to remove their face covering and will be granted breaks as requested.

- **If mandatory, what will happen if a student or staff member refuses to wear a mask?**
  - All students and staff in attendance at school are expected to follow all CDC and Pennsylvania Department of Health guidelines regarding masks.
- **If everyone is required to wear a face shield, can the shields be left at school to be sanitized daily? This would allow for proper cleaning and also eliminate anyone forgetting to bring it to school each day**
  - No, students will be required to wear or have their face mask or other device with them at all times. The school will sanitize school equipment and other items. Trinity will not engage in cleaning student or staff devices.
  - If students are required to wear the mask or other device on the bus and they do not have one with them they will not be permitted on the bus.
  - Trinity will have masks available for students and staff if they need one during the day.
- **Will the buses be supplied with masks for those who forget them?**
  - Yes.

TRANSPORTATION
- **Will there be buses or will it be up to the parents to drop off and pick up?**
  - Trinity will continue to offer bus transportation for those who need it.
  - Parents are encouraged to drive their children to and from school when possible.
  - To the extent possible, we will attempt to socially distance all students while riding district transportation.
  - We also support your decision to transport your child to school rather than have him/her ride the bus.
- **If a bus driver tests positive, what will be the protocol for the students that were on that bus?**
  - Yes, the same guidelines as for teachers or any other individual who would test positive will be followed.
  - Notify local health officials, staff, and families immediately of a possible case while maintaining confidentiality consistent with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and other applicable federal and state privacy laws.
  - Close off areas used by a sick person and do not use before cleaning and disinfection. Wait 24 hours before you clean and disinfect. If it is not possible to wait 24 hours, wait as long as possible. Ensure safe and correct application of disinfectants and keep disinfectant products away from children.
  - Advise sick staff members and children not to return until they have met state DOH criteria to discontinue home isolation.

- **How often will buses be sanitized?**
  - Buses will be sanitized at least once daily.
  - When possible, we will encourage the opening of windows and roof vents to maximize ventilation within the bus.

FOOD SERVICE
- **Will my child go through serving lines to get food?**
  - All food will be pre-packaged/grab-and-go.
  - Social distancing will be enforced during any food service.
- **Will my child still scan their finger to pay for his/her food?**
  - No. We are testing contactless options.

ELEMENTARY-SPECIFIC QUESTIONS
- **What is the plan for outdoor recess?**
  - Scheduled recess will be facilitated by individual teachers in small groups where social distancing can be accommodated. Reinforcement of physical distancing during playground time will be reinforced. Students and staff will be encouraged to wash their hands or use hand-sanitizer before and after being on the playground
- **What is the plan for indoor recess?**
  - Students will be able to be active according to the current social distancing guidelines.
- **How will students be kept from sharing items?**
  - The district provides supplies for students who need them. Student belongings should be placed in the individual student's desk, cubby or book bag.
- **Will students still have cubbies in the classroom, or would we need to anticipate packing pencil cases/spare clothes/etc in the backpack each day?**
  - Students will still have access to their cubby during their scheduled instructional days.
  - We do ask that each student takes all items from his/her cubby home with him/her when completing the remote instruction days.
- **Given the requirements for social distancing, how will it be enforced in classes, hallways, cafeteria, gym, library, recess, buses, etc?**
  - Mobility during the day will be limited, as students will remain in their classrooms for the majority of the day.
  - During unstructured time, classroom teachers will provide guidance and reinforce appropriate social distancing protocols.
  - Traffic flow in hallways will be based upon each school's individual layout. Your child's building principal will work with the staff to communicate these expectations to students.

- **What is the plan for Pick up/drop off? Will it be set for different times to limit everyone being there all at once.**
  - At this time, there is no planned change to arrival and dismissal times.
  - However, the specifics about pick-up and drop-off locations and procedures may change, based upon the school's specific layout.
  - Your child's building principal will include this specific information in his/her welcome back letter in August.
- **How will itinerant classes be handled?**
  - We are committed to a well-rounded education. We are exploring all available options to deliver classes to your child.
- **What will lunch look like?**
  - Lunch will be provided in all cafeterias using appropriate social distancing guidelines provided by the CDC and Pennsylvania Department of Education.
  - All seating will be assigned.
  - Lunch will still be available for purchase from Trinity Area through our Food Service Department.
- **What is the plan for field trips, assemblies, volunteers, and holiday parties?**
  - At this time, building access will be limited to students and Trinity Area staff. There are no plans at this time for field trips, school-wide face-to-face assemblies (virtual is a possibility), open houses, in-school volunteers, or holiday parties.

MIDDLE SCHOOL-SPECIFIC QUESTIONS
- **Will desks be wiped after every period?**
  - Trinity has invested in [state-of-the art cleaning technology](#) that will kill viruses both in the air and on surfaces. This is now a regular part of our cleaning routines. They will not be cleaned between periods.
- **Will my child change classes?**
  - Yes students will follow their schedule and move classes. The students will move in one direction like the road system.
  - What will hallway traffic look like? The District will have one-way traffic patterns in the hallways and on sidewalks, with physical guides, such as tape, to keep students in place

HIGH SCHOOL-SPECIFIC QUESTIONS

- **Will there be multiple classes for AP level sections since it is required (but social distancing dictates how many can be in a room)?**
  - All classes will be split on the A Day and B Day schedule limiting the amount of students in a classroom in one class period.
- **Will desks be wiped after every period?**
  - Classes will be equipped with all the proper materials to complete a quick, limited wipe down of frequently-touched areas and that will occur between periods if the students change classrooms.
- **What will happen with classes that will always have half the students like orchestra, band, or journalism?**
  - These classes will be split, based off of the A Day and B Day schedules with social distancing and all recommended safety measures.
- **Will my child change classes?**
  - Yes, students will change classes based off of their individual student schedule.
- **Does the district have an idea of what class sizes you are aiming for?**
  - Class sizes due to the A Day and B Day rotation, will be an average of 12 to 16 students depending on the physical size of the classroom.
- **Will Western Area CTC students attend 5 days or the same as Trinity (A Day, B Day) ?**
  - Trinity students who attend the WACTC will still attend during the 2020-2021 school year, regardless of the selection of education (hybrid or full cyber instruction).
  - WACTC is currently developing a plan to meet the needs of all WACTC students that adheres to all current safety guidelines and mandates.
  - Trinity will provide transportation for students to attend WACTC.
- **What is the Student Parking Plan for the Hybrid A Day/B Day Schedule?**
  - Seniors and juniors will be given the opportunity to apply for a parking spot on campus. Currently, we are looking at ways to minimize the amount of students that are riding the bus.
  - Students will be required to apply for a parking permit, they will need the following items.
    - Valid Driver's License
    - Proof of Insurance
    - Proof of Registration
  - Parking permit applications will be accepted online only. The application will be posted on the Trinity High School website in the near future. A Skylert will be sent to parents indicating that the parking application form is available to complete.

- Permits will be distributed to seniors, juniors, and if parking is available eligible sophomores.
- Parking permits will be distributed to students free of charge while the school district is operating on the Hybrid (A Day and B Day) model.
    - Families that received a credit at the conclusion of the 19-20 school year for student parking can expect to receive a refund from the school district.
    - *Please note*: if school is able to resume a five day per week schedule. Parking passes will be re-distributed to students at the discretion of the administration.