

Eddie Pounds: Pray you are all safe and healthy. Thank you for joining us. Eddie will be moderator.

Rules: raise your hand and you must have your screen on.

Mike Mullin: Welcome. Great opportunity to share what's been going on at HT. Thank you for participating and thank you for your questions.

Announcements:

- Graduation will be held on Wednesday June 3 and it will be a drive in graduation. We want an in person graduation. More information to come.
- Summer camp will be virtual starting in July. We want to know what you want to see and will send out a survey to parents re: interest and courses that are wanted.
- Parents will also receive a survey about how COVID 19 has impacted your distance learning. Please take time to fill them out.
- PPP – We applied for a grant and we received some money from that, but we applied for and received a grant only for salaries. We want to make sure we can pay our staff through the summer. We could have received more than we asked for, but we are mindful of others' needs.
- Holy Trinity Church closed this week. The parish made a strong effort to save the church but the pandemic had too much of a negative impact. We are now under the auspices of the diocese. They are totally supportive of us and what we do, and we will continue our Episcopal identity and mission.
- Today we donated Extended Day snacks to Bowie Pantry and to Doctor's Community Hospital

School closure and upcoming school year

Q What is the plan of action for school year closeout? When will parents be able to pick up belongings from school? What will process be to pick up belongings?

A We're having school through June 3. We're going to try to have people pick up personal belongings, medication, yearbooks, etc. on June 4 and 5. Lots of plans are needed to ensure social distancing. In HS Prep students will have to return computers along with books, etc. Primary school is planning on a last day carline and a virtual step up day for 4th grade. Please make sure you check your email. We will need everyone's support and cooperation.

Q Can you provide details on plans for school in the fall? Has the enrollment increased or decreased? Will we follow guidelines set forth by MD school superintendent for transitioning students to school?

A Upcoming year: We have reviewed the MD Together plan put out by superintendent re: reopening of schools. We're also looking at what other independent schools are doing. My sense now is that we will be virtual starting in the fall. If we were to open in a mode where students could come to school it would look like this: students would come to school with mask and gloves, screened at the front door, go to a classroom where they would be separated by a min of 6ft., ten students to a class, and that's where they would get all their academics. Teachers would come to them for instructions. Lunches would require privacy boundaries so kids could take off masks and eat. Recess would be small groups. Students could go outside but would have to be socially separated. PE would be skills focus. New guidelines re: band and choir regulations suggest students be 16 feet apart.

We need to consider what's reasonable and what is the most we can do to mitigate risk. We will continue to follow guidelines and follow the local health department. I suspect we will still be virtual and we are starting training on additional tools and platforms, with more interactive tools. Training will continue over the summer.

Enrollment is holding steady, where we expect it to be, and we're seeing good growth in TDLS and Primary School, and getting calls from people who have heard about what we're doing and are unhappy with what they're receiving in their current school.

Q Has consideration been given to how the on line process will be managed next year if online learning continues?

A There are things we need to take in consideration: learning styles, students with learning challenges, illnesses. My biggest concern is social emotional side. We have a school counselor and we have posted resources on the counselor's corner site. We are working on making teaching more engaging and robust. What can we incorporate into our program and teaching once we're back to a more normal school schedule.

Q Will you pull back on enrollment considering the drastic change?

A We're not going to increase the numbers of students in classes. We will enroll new students, provided they are qualified, provided there is space available.

Q At the last virtual coffee you discussed the three possible scenarios for school in the fall. Will there be option for families to continue with 100% distance learning if families prefer.

A I think we would do our very best to do that. We've had conversations about putting cameras in classrooms in the hybrid model and provide mikes for teachers as they teach. This is tentative because don't know what the pitfalls are.

Q Please share protocol for pass/fail grades.

A If you get above 60 in HS Prep you pass. Below that, you fail. If you're a HS Prep student and want grades, you will get grades.

Q Are you auditing classes to see the lack of rigor in core classes and overload of busy work?

A Interesting question, I think it's one of perspective. I visit classes all the time and I think what the teachers are doing to meet various needs of students is good. It's hard to meet demands and expectations of everyone. Our platform has done a remarkable job of meeting as many needs as we can.

Q How do you plan to incorporate the new counselor should we be virtual in the fall?

A Mrs. Washington will create support groups where she can work with kids in small groups discussing common issues and concerns. We will see a different model when we get back to normal.

Q Do you have an update on the 5/6 teacher vacancy?

A We had someone lined up and were waiting on the background check. Unfortunately she did not want to pursue the position. We have reopened that search and are holding interviews.

Q When will a decision be made on summer camp and are the summer camps we registered for cancelled?

A No live camp in June. Planning virtual camp starting in July. If we can have live camp, we will. If you want a refund for summer camp, Becky Williams will expedite refund.

Q Refunds for Before and Aftercare?

A Now that schools are closed for the year, those parents who re-enrolled will receive a credit towards Extended Day for next year. If you are leaving the school you will get a refund. Please reach out to Teresa Blades.

For Minute Events lunches, Minute Events are also looking to give credits for lunches for when we return. Please contact Minute Events with questions.

Q What will be the format of Band camp this summer?

A Based on what I heard today regarding the separation of students, I wondered how that would work. I will need to speak to Mr. Hollar about how he sees this happening.

Mapping your way for new students is easier to do virtually.

Q Will there a partial activity fee refund since 5th and 6th graders did not get a chance to go to camps?

A There is no plan for refund.

Q Do we get a 500 refund if my child has been at HT from Preschool to 8th grade.

A Not sure what this refund is. We have a longevity bonus towards tuition, but no refund.

Q Any concession for families who need to withdraw since registration has already occurred?

A No

Q If we reopen in a virtual environment will there be an adjustment in tuition?

A Adjustments would be for activity fees. In TDLS there will be an adjustment for Extended Day. I remind parents that teachers are still teaching and tuition only covers 85% of tuition.

Q Can we have graduation outside on the lawn instead of a drive in?

A I think the concerns are the numbers of people who would gather around for this. We've talked about this but I don't know how we could maintain social distancing. We will try to make this as personal as we can. Everybody will have their moment to come up to pick up their diploma. Also, anything we do has to be cleared by the health department.

Q We will need better computers if we're back in a virtual setting. Is there an update?

A I've asked Mr. Anderson, our IT person, to see if there is a computer with a better processing speed. I don't know what that would do to cost in terms of technology fees. I will research this.

Q Has there been thought given to classes such as phys ed for teachers to come together to teach the same thing. Three different teachers teaching three different things. Can the math teachers teach the same thing?

A In math we have different groups working on different levels. I will ask about the phys ed situation.

Q Will there be a ceremony for the 4th grade?

A Yes, it will be virtual. Mrs. Falk sent home an email to the 4th grade regarding their ceremony. Going back to the graduation, we may be able to get our students back for a celebration. They have earned it.

Q NJHS- is the deadline for application firm, or are there contingencies for those who cannot get recommendations in a timely manner.

A I encourage parents to direct all those questions to Mr. Brown, the advisor.

Q Will families be able to opt out of the one to one program?

A No. The computers up to this point have worked fine. The machines are locked down and loaded with the software we need on them. If there is a need for new computers, we will look in to that.

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Q When will virtual camp start?

A July 6

Q Are there grants available to allow us to bridge the pay gap to recruit more diversity amongst our teachers?

A Not that I'm aware of. There is a group called Nemnet, a minority teacher placement group. We work with them and post openings there. We're also trying to build a relationship with Bowie State University.