



Welcome to the 2017-18 school year! I am excited and honored to be your principal. The entire Holy Trinity Catholic School staff extends a warm welcome to our new and returning families. We are looking to a school year full of growth spiritually, academically and socially in your children.

### Prayers to Begin a School Year

God of wisdom and might, we praise you for the wonder of our being, for mind, body and spirit. Be with our children as they begin a new school year. Bless them and their teachers and staff. Give the strength and grace as their bodies grow; wisdom and knowledge to their minds as they search for understanding; and peace and zeal to their hearts.

We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

**Welcome:** Holy Trinity would like to welcome our new families. Welcome to the Adaikappan, Baker/Thomas, Barefoot, Bensko, Bhurale, Brown, Bucci, Cadarette, Callahan, Capalongo, Carlisle, Carlowski, Cavicchia, Cipriani, Cooper, Crytzer, Daniel, Dorsett, Dugan/ Vosnall, Dugan, Ficarri, Ficocelli, Frank, Garretson, Glidden, Gopalakrishnan, Goshorn, Grossic, Harris, Hawk, Henriquez, Hess, Pino, Incorvati, Irby, Jeremiah, Jones, Jones, Joshi, Kushner, Lachesky, Mawhinney, McCabe, Menefee, Meyer, Mineo, Morrow, Neilson, Novelli, Ogurchak, Oliver, Poore, Price, Roncone, Schob, Silvestri, Singh/Kaur, Smith, Snyder, Solaya, Stadterman, Storch, Suehr, Tamburino, Tegano, Urick, Vlasach, Wainwright, Weakland, Wetelet, and Wu.

**Welcome Back Picnic:** A great time was had by everyone at our annual Welcome Back Picnic. The weather was perfect with just some rain coming in at the end of the night. The event was well attended and the food was delicious. Thank you PTG for sponsoring the picnic.

**VIP Car Raffle Information:** The car raffle is coming to a close in just 9 days! We have added additional time slots. Please go to this link to sign up to work. <http://signup.com/go/pZwXEBK> If you would like to have additional tickets to sell, call the school office. Remember we owe \$25,000.00 to the dealership for the car and we still have not sold enough tickets to pay it off. All ticket money is due by September 7<sup>th</sup>. We are counting on each school family sell at least 5 tickets. The drawing is September 9<sup>th</sup> at the Robinson Autumn Festival. Remember for every ticket you sell you get a \$10.00 in fundraising credit. This is an important fundraiser for HTS so please show your SUPPORT.

## Meet the New Staff



Kim Douglass has a Bachelor of Science from Clarion University in Elementary & Early Childhood Education. She also has Master of Education in Teaching & Curriculum from Penn State University. Here is why Kim is excited about teaching. Teaching has always been a passion of mine and I've always loved working with children. I'm looking forward to sharing my enthusiasm of learning with your children.



Christina Folino has a Bachelor of Science in Early Childhood Education PreK– 4<sup>th</sup> grade from Saint Vincent College. Here is what Christina loves about teaching. I love being a teacher because I love to share my passion for learning with each and every one of my students. Through the challenges we face from day to day, there is nothing more rewarding than watching a child grow and succeed throughout the school year.



Amanda McGuire has a Bachelor of Science in Early Childhood Education PreK-4th from Robert Morris University. She comes to us with 4 years of teaching experience. Here is what she loves about teaching. What I love about teaching is that it is very rewarding to be a part of the students' first school experiences. I enjoy seeing their little faces glow with joy and accomplishment when learning new things for the first time. Preschool is a fun age group to teach, there's always a new surprise and challenge each day.



Cassidy Shipley has a Music Education degree from Slippery Rock University. This is why she is excited about teaching. I am excited to start teaching because I want to help students develop their love for music and make an impact on their lives.



Rachael Wallover has a Bachelor's of Science in Education in English Education from Duquesne University. Here is what Rachael loves about teaching. What I love about teaching: I love helping students gain the skills necessary to aid their future dreams and endeavors. It is a privilege to witness the journey God has laid out for their lives.



Leslie Williams has a Bachelor's degree in Biology and a Master's Degree in Environmental Science and Management both from Duquesne University. Here is why she is excited to be the Advancement Director at HTS. I am excited to introduce prospective students and parents to our Holy Trinity School family!

**STAFF ROSTER 2017 - 2018 and EMAIL ADDRESSES:** All email addresses follow this format; the first initial of first name and last name @holytrinityrobinson.com. Here is an example kstevenson@holytrinityrobinson.org

Father Ken Keene	Pastor	Mrs. Clara Jablonski	5 <sup>th</sup> Grade
Mrs. Kimberly Stevenson	Principal	Miss Anne Castello	6 <sup>th</sup> Grade
Mrs. Gemma Ruggiero	Secretary	Mrs. Brenda Ford	6th Grade
Ms Bonnie Amendola	Business Manager	Mrs. Rachael Wallover	7th Grade
Mrs. Carol Shaffer	Academic Support Coordinator	Mrs. Darci Smith	7th Grade
Mrs. Celeste D'Itri	3 & 4 year Half Day Preschool	Mr. Alan Betten	8th Grade
Mrs. Denise Somma	Aide	Miss Amanda Codori	8 <sup>th</sup> Grade
Miss Amanda McGuire	3 & 4 year Full Day Preschool	Mr. Adam Miller	Health / Gym/ Computers
Mrs. Elizabeth Michnowicz	Aide M - W	Miss Cassidy Shipley	Music / Band/ Chorus
Mrs. Stephanie Baker	Aide Th & F	Mrs. Margie Boehm	Art
Miss Christina Folino	4 Year 5 Full Day Preschool	Mrs. Amarillys Ojeda	Spanish
Mrs. Anne Gabor	Aide	Miss Susan Cain	AIU Speech and Language
Ms. Megan Holleran	Kindergarten	Mr. Jeff London	AIU Counselor
Mrs. Ronelle Boburka	Aide	Mrs. Laurie Malarkey	AIU Math & Reading
Mrs. Mary Ellen Moore	Kindergarten	Mrs. Char Osso	Cafeteria Manager
Mrs. Charlotte McClelland	Aide	Mrs. Angela Scalomonga	Cook
Miss Josette Bruno	1 <sup>st</sup> Grade	Mrs. Neychel Ludwick	Cafeteria
Mrs. Kelli DiPaolo	1 <sup>st</sup> Grade	Mr. Jason Swauger	Fine Arts Director
Mrs. Colleen Thiry	2nd Grade	Mr. Paul Ribsy	Maintenance
Mrs. Mary Ann Ringel	2nd Grade	Mrs. Marguerite Zukowski	Librarian
Miss Lauren Sutton	3 <sup>rd</sup> Grade	Mr. John Ott	Violin
Mrs. Elizabeth Addison	3 <sup>rd</sup> Grade	Mrs. Kim Douglass	Long Term Sub
Mrs. Laura LaGrosse	4th Grade		
Mr. Matthew Loftis	4 <sup>th</sup> Grade		
Miss Michelle Golden	5 <sup>th</sup> Grade		

### School Times and Policies

**Morning:** Students in Kindergarten – 8<sup>th</sup> grade may begin entering the building through door 15 at 7:45am. Children must be inside the school by 8:00 am to avoid being tardy.

Preschool parents should report to the car rider door no **earlier** than 8:00am. The classroom aides will be at the door until 8:10am to admit students.

Parents of kindergarten and preschool children can walk their children to their classroom for the 1<sup>st</sup> week of school after that you will kiss them goodbye at the car rider doors.

**Dismissal:** Students in kindergarten – eighth grade will be dismissed at 2:45pm and preschool children will be dismissed at 2:30pm at door 15.

**Car Rider Procedures:** At Holy Trinity Catholic School, your child's safety is our greatest concern. We recognize that life is extremely busy, but we also know that putting a child at risk is never excusable. To ensure all children's safety, please help us by adhering to the following procedures.

### Drop Off

- Please form one line and pull up to one of the six orange cones. Six cars can unload at one time to move things along more quickly.
- Two staff members will be on duty to ensure the line moves quickly and that your child safely enters the building.
- Do not use the drop off location as a parking spot or for communication.
- Children need to be ready to disembark. You may, however, park your car and escort your child into the building if they are in the full day Preschool.
- It is important to remember to park only in the designated parking spaces. Do not create your own.
- With a 15 minute window for drop off you cannot wait until the last minute to arrive because there will be a line. The doors will close promptly at 8:00am for grades kindergarten – eighth grade students. After 8:00 you will need to walk your child in through the main door. Preschool parents should begin student drop off at 8:00am – 8:10 am.

**Pick Up** [Please use the map for the dismissal traffic pattern.](#)

- Cones will be placed in the lot preventing cars from passing in front of the car rider doors.
- Please use the red lines on the map for the driving route and parent parking areas.
- There are over 100 spaces available for after school pick up. You must park in a parking space and then proceed to the car rider doors to pick up your child(ren). The handicap spaces in the front of the church may also be used as long as there is no parish activity occurring. This policy will be strictly enforced.
- Lastly, exit the school lot slowly.

**Parent Responsibilities:**

**Volunteers Hours:** Volunteers are a vital part of Holy Trinity Catholic School. I urge you to share your talents and time with us. Recess and cafeteria volunteers are always in demand. To volunteer complete all required clearances. See attachment. Volunteer and make a difference!! Remember that each family is required to earn 40 volunteer hours. I hope that if you have met your assessment you will still continue to help out when you can

**Fundraising:** As a Catholic school who strives to keep tuition affordable, we rely greatly on our fundraising profit. Your attendance at events such as the Festival, Auction, Men's Night and Touch a Truck, along with participation in the Car Raffle, SCRIP gift cards, football pools, magazine sales, and candy sales will help us to be successful. We have a variety of different ways to earn your assessment. Choose the fundraisers which work best for your family. Thank you in advance for recognizing the importance of the fundraising portion of the school budget and taking an active role in reaching the goal.

**Goal Tracker:** The Holy Trinity Goal Tracker online tool contains all of your volunteer hours and fundraising profits. You will receive your password shortly and can check your information at any time. Once an activity or fundraiser is over it takes a few weeks for your information to appear on the Goal Tracker site. Please keep in mind that parent volunteers are inputting the data and it takes time to complete the task. When report cards are issued, you will need to go to Goal Tracker and make sure your information is correct. The chairpersons of each event will have the hours and profits recorded. Information will be listed in the November Principal's Page as to the fundraisers, volunteer hours, and chairperson names and contacts for the 1<sup>st</sup> nine week report. Contact the chairpersons directly if there are any mistakes on your report. There is a 2 week window in which these correction can be made.

**Fundraising Summary:** To keep you abreast of the progress made toward our fundraising assessment, a fundraising summary quarterly report will be web blasted at the end of each 9 week period. The information on this form shows the projected and actual profit of the event or fundraiser. Several of the fundraisers are ongoing so you will see changes throughout the year.

**Communication:** In order to keep the lines of communication open between home and school we will be using various avenues. The Monthly information Packet will be emailed to all families and posted on the school website ([www.holytrinityelementary.org](http://www.holytrinityelementary.org)). This will enable you to print only the information which you will need and give you immediate access to all forms. All of the brochures (i.e. YMCA, camps, coupons, etc.) will still be sent home via your child’s folder through school. All information or fliers, etc. that an organization may want to distribute must be approved by the principal and will then be forwarded to the school secretary.

**Web Blasts:** This year we will categorize the web blasts as follows. We may not have a blast every day of the week. The web blasts contain important information. Please take the time to read them.

Monday	Open
Tuesday	PTG and Other Fundraisers
Wednesday	Major Fundraisers - SCRIP Gift Cards, Festival, Auction, Men’s Night
Thursday	School Information and Monthly Packet
Friday	Upcoming Week Reminders

**Parent – Student Handbook:** The Parent – Student Handbook has been placed on the school website. This is a very important and informative document. Please read the handbook, sign the agreement form and return it to the school by September 8th.

**Pictures Days:** The photographer will be here to take school pictures on September 6<sup>th</sup> for grades K -8, on September 20<sup>th</sup> for all four old Preschool classes and on September 22<sup>nd</sup> for the three year old Preschool classes. Forms will be send home soon.

**Birthday Blessings in a Bag:** The students and staff at Holy Trinity Catholic School will participate in a community service activity called “Birthday Blessings in a Bag”. Our children are blessed to celebrate with a cake on their birthday, but many children and adults do not. The objective of this activity is to bring joy to another person making them feel like a shining star on their birthday. Community service teaches our children responsibility not only for themselves, but also for other people. Through community service, children understand that their actions impact others.

Here is how the program works. Each month the students who have a birthday are asked to fill a provided white bag with a box of cake mix, a can of frosting, candles and a homemade birthday card. The bag should be decorated with stars, keeping with the school’s theme “We are all God’s shining stars.” During the second mass of each month beginning on **September 8<sup>th</sup>**, the students and staff with August & September birthdays will receive a blessing and then present the bags near the altar. The bags will be collected and brought to local food pantries to be distributed as a special birthday treat.



- I learn from my mistakes

Growth Mindset, a term coined by Carol Dweck, a Stanford University psychologist, is the idea that when people change their beliefs about their own efforts, they can better adapt to create successful outcomes. It has been proven that having a Growth Mindset can improve children's progress and attainment. As a result, we are teaching our children that by having a Growth Mindset they can grow their brains and intelligence and achieve anything they want!

It is important to build a growth mindset home environment. Your mindset has a huge impact on the minds of your children and this is why it is important to strive to have a growth mindset yourself. I have attached two reflection mindset reflection tools for you to review. Here is how you can help at home.

- Praise the amount of effort your child is putting into things rather than how clever they are.
- Talk to your children about their brain being like a muscle - the more they use it, the stronger it gets;
- Encourage your children to not give up if they are finding something difficult;
- Challenge your children to try something new or challenging.

### Resources for Growth Mindset

Here is a video on growth mindset. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kXhbtCcmsyQ>.

### Books for Parents

- *Mindsets for Parents: Strategies to Encourage Growth Mindsets in Kids* by Mary Cay Ricci, Margaret Lee

### Books for Young Adults

- *A Night Divided* by Jennifer A. Nielsen
- *The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian* by Sherman Alexie
- *All American Boys* by Jason Reynolds
- *Booked* by Kwame Alexander
- *Take the Reins (Canterwood Crest #1)* by Jessica Burkhart

### Read aloud books for children.

**The Most Magnificent Thing** by *Ashley Spires*- Perseverance and creativity are key to creating marvelous things, but what happens when things go awry?

**Rosie Rever, Engineer** by *Andrea Beaty*- Rosie learns a powerful lesson about success and failure in this adorable children's book with a strong female lead character.

**Your Fantastic Elastic Brain: Stretch It, Shape It** by *JoAnn Deak, Ph.D.*-Streeeeeetch your brain and learn new things with the tips in this children's favorite.

**The Girl Who Never Made Mistakes** by *Mark Pett*-What would it be like to never make a mistake? Beatrice Bottomwell is a perfectionist who must confront her very first mistake in this fun book.

**What Do You Do With a Problem?** by *Kobi Yamada* - Change your mindset about problems and you may find that nothing is as bad as it seems!

**Thanks for the Feedback, I Think...** *by Julia Cook* - Feedback, both positive and negative, can create growth opportunities. It's all about how you handle it!

**Beautiful Oops!** *by Barney Saltzberg* - Teaching children that it's okay to make mistakes is one of the most important lessons they can learn.

**The Dot** *by Peter H. Reynolds* - Creativity is on the rise in this adorable book that encourages children to embrace challenges that put them outside of their comfort zone.

**The OK Book** *by Amy Krouse Rosenthal* - This little book emphasizes to children that being OK at something is okay!

**Making a Splash: A Growth Mindset Children's Book** *by Carol E. Reiley* - Compare a growth mindset to a fixed mindset in this children's book that addresses different attitudes and ideas about learning.

### **Upcoming Fundraisers and Events**

**Selling Gift Cards After Mass:** My name is Kristin Thomas and I have a Kindergartner and Second Grader in the school and I chair the selling of Mass Gift Cards at Church. I know this time of year is busy for parents, but we are hoping to raise more awareness about this program and recruit more volunteers to help us reach our fundraising goals. Our committee has been hard at work this summer trying to find ways to increase participation and we thought, along with Mrs. Stevenson, that having each grade take a month of selling gift cards before and after weekend Masses would help make this program a success this year. We would like to begin with the 7th and 8th grade parents for the month of September. The Masses gift cards are sold at our Saturday at 5, and Sundays at 8, 10 and 12.

If all of the weekends in September are staffed by the parents/guardians of the 7th and 8th grade, both grades will earn a dress down pass for the following month. If a parent/guardian is unable to staff a certain time and you find someone to work on your behalf (doesn't have to be a 7th/8th grade parent/guardian) that will still count towards the dress down pass for 7th and 8th grade since you are seeking out the volunteer. If we do not receive full volunteer participation from the homerooms, then no dress down passes will be issued. Please consider volunteering for a total of two hours per Mass. For example, if you volunteer for the 5 pm Mass on Saturday, you will work 4:30-6:30. You will also earn fundraising credit based on what is sold during your shift.

Please visit the link below and find a time that may fit into your schedule for volunteering. Once you are signed up, please reply to this email and I will provide instructions. It's a simple process that can have a big impact for the school!

#### **Here's how it works in 3 easy steps:**

1. **Click this link** to go to our invitation page on SignUp.com: <http://signup.com/go/M8Qncs>
2. **Enter your email address:** (You will NOT need to register an account on SignUp.com)
3. **Sign up!** Choose your spots - SignUp.com will send you an automated confirmation and reminders. Easy!

Note: SignUp.com does not share your email address with anyone. If you prefer not to use your email address, please contact me and I can sign you up manually.

Thank you for your time! You may reply to this email or email me at my personal one as well, [kmehno2002@yahoo.com](mailto:kmehno2002@yahoo.com). Have a great school year!

**Dine Out Days:** Holy Trinity School will be holding Dine out Nights throughout the school year. Amanda Hartsock is the chairperson. Our first Dine Out is a McTeacher Night at McDonald's on Thursday September 21<sup>st</sup> from 5:00 until 7:00pm. Stop by and enjoy a great meal served by the HTS staff.

**Festival:** Our good and gracious Lord blessed us with 3 days of beautiful weather and an outstanding Festival Chair. Bonnie Amendola has served as the Festival chair form the past 5 years. Michelle Roun served as the co-chair. Bonnie continued to implement new ideas in order to increase revenue. This event requires the largest pool of volunteers and it was great to see so many of our school families, parishioners, and neighbors working and enjoying this event. The entertainment was awesome and the food was delicious. I want to thank everyone who helped in any way with the Festival. With collaboration and teamwork we can do great things! Thanks to all the parents who chaired a booth or volunteered in any way. We will let you know the results as soon as they are in.

**Magazine Sale:** The Magazine sale will begin on Friday, September 1st. The turn in dates are the September 7<sup>th</sup>, 14<sup>th</sup>, and 21<sup>st</sup>. This fundraiser has online selling options, which makes it easy to contact family and friends outside of the area. This is a great way to meet your assessment so let's sell some magazines. Thank you to Mrs. Mulvay and Mrs. Frosell for chairing this fundraiser.