



Welcome to the 2017 - 2018 School Year!

Lights Camera Action, it is time for an Oscar winning new year. The beginning of a new school year, like the release of a new movie reminds us that the future holds new possibilities. I hope that your summer was relaxing, filled with adventures and good health because you deserve it. Many of you are returning cast members at Holy Trinity Catholic School and for the other families, it is a brand new script on the educational journey for your children. We will continue to refine our proven foundation of good work, honored traditions and continued excellence in education as we direct and inspire our student stars. Personally, I am grateful and happy to continue my journey with you as your Principal in a school where every student is a star.

Let me begin by introducing myself to the new families. This year marks my 12th year at HTS and I am just as excited for the beginning of this school year as I was for my first. I have worked in education for 32 years. My husband Rich and I have 4 children, spread across the United States. Dominick, his wife Megan and my granddaughter Kinley (19 months old) live in Edmond, Oklahoma. I am anxiously awaiting the birth of my second grandchild in September. Dominick is a geologist for Chesapeake Energy. Devin, my oldest daughter is an Emergency Room nurse in Mission Hills, California. Dilyn is in her last year of graduate school at the University of North Dakota in Grand Forks and Delaynie my youngest child, is an education major at California University.

"Until one has loved an animal, a part of one's soul remains unawakened," This is one of my favorite quotes. You see I love animals. I have 3 miniature dachshunds named Piper, Cooper and Henry. I have 6 chickens and a Palomino horse name Penny.

We will open the school year with a Hollywood theme. We will highlight the fact that all of our students are stars and they are able to shine brightly at HTS. We will roll out the red carpet for them on the first day of school. Please check our Facebook page for pictures of classroom bulletin boards.

Each year brings positive changes. This includes a few additions to our staff. We are delighted to welcome Miss Christina Folino & Miss Amanda McGuire our Preschool teachers, and Mrs. Rachael Wallover our 7th grade teacher. I am still searching for a music and band teacher. Both Mrs. Rauch and Miss Iksic have accepted full time positions in other schools. Also, Mrs. Kim Douglass will be serving as the teacher in 2A during Mrs. Thiry's maternity leave. These teachers bring a solid skill set and a gentle, sensitive approach to our learning community. We are blessed to have them as members of our staff.

Several of our staff members have been moved to different grades. This year Miss Codori will have an 8th grade homeroom, Mr. Loftis will be teaching 4th grade and Miss Sutton will be a 3rd grade teacher. We are very excited with these teaching changes.

If you drove past the school or utilized our outdoor playground this summer, you may have noticed numerous maintenance and construction projects. First, we repainted several areas inside the school. To accommodate our growing school, the former Spanish classroom has been abated, painted and carpeted. Miss Sutton's 3rd grade classroom will be housed in that space.

Last year's safety and security review generated a recommendation that new classroom doors be placed in the Middle School hallway. Ten new doors were installed by a generous benefactor. They are also responsible for the ballists which will be located at the car rider door. The ballists will increase the safety of our children.

Academically, we will be adding a new reading intervention program. The Diocese has adopted the Step by Step Learning Program and HTS is looking forward to integrating this program into our kindergarten and 1st grade classrooms. The program will be expanded to the 2nd and 3rd grade classrooms in following year. The Step by Step Learning Program is evidenced based solutions that provide schools with a comprehensive response to intervention. This program provides small group intervention resources to improve academic achievement. Data from the Dibels diagnostic tests will be used to drive the intervention program. Reports will be sent home 3 times a year in September, January and March. These individualized tests are comprised of seven measures to function as indicators of phonemic awareness, alphabetic principle, accuracy and fluency with connected text, reading comprehension, and vocabulary. DIBELS were designed for use in identifying children experiencing difficulty in acquisition of basic early literacy skills in order to provide support early and prevent the occurrence of later reading difficulties.

Upgrading technology is important for increasing learning and preparing our students for higher education. Over the past few years Smart boards, projectors, laptops, chrome books and a server have been purchased. This summer work continued in this area. Upgrading our wireless network will begin next week. We have also purchased a Smart board, a projector and 2 Makey Makey kits. These kits include Makey Makeys, alligator clips, and USB cables. Makey Makey is an invention kit for the 21st century. They turn everyday objects into touchpads and combine them with the internet. It's a simple Invention Kit for beginners and experts doing art, engineering, and everything in between.

As a professional learning community, we are committed to working tirelessly to provide challenging educational opportunities for your children each day. In order to be as successful as we can be, we need your help. You are a vital part of our learning community. Collaboration with your child's teacher is the main ingredient to a healthy and successful year.

Open communication is vital to ensure a successful home-school partnership throughout the year. Parent involvement is an important aspect of every child's education and is the primary factor in a students' success in school.

There are many ways in which you can participate in school. Volunteering at school events, chaperoning field trips, becoming a member of our PTG, chairing an after school club or, assisting with school activities, are just a few ways that you can make a difference.

My main priority is the children. The students at HTS deserve the best. I am passionate about my mission as principal and I will make decisions that are in the best interest of your child.

In closing, when we all work from the same script as a learning community and perform with our children's best interest at heart, we will win and Oscar. If I can ever be of assistance, please call at 412-787-2656 x 3 or email me at principal@holytrinityrobinson.org. It is through working as a collaborative community with consistent, honest, and open communication that I can best serve you. Thank you for the opportunity to serve as the principal and look forward to seeing you at our opening performance on August 28th.

Lights, Camera, Action - Scene one!

