



TRINITY CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL

May 12, 2020

Dear Parents of Underclassman Students,

We hope that this update finds all our families safe and well.

In our on-going efforts to assist in transitioning all students to their new school for next year, we recently met with various officials representing the Stamford Public School System and will be doing so again tomorrow, Wednesday, May 13, 2020. To date, we'd like to share this important information with you:

- The Department Heads of Guidance at both Westhill HS and Stamford HS are in receipt of all TCHS vital documents for those students who reside in their respective districts:
 - Transcripts
 - Current, 3rd Quarter Report Cards, 2019-2020
 - Standardized test scores, where applicable: PSATs Oct 2018, 2019
- WHS Guidance Department Head: Paola Ochoa is your contact if Westhill is your district school. She can be reached at [\(203\) 977-4483](mailto:Pochoa@stamfordct.gov)
- SHS Guidance Department Head: Geraldine Nuzzo is your contact if Stamford is your district school. She can be reached at [\(203\) 977-5755](mailto:GNuzzo@stamfordct.gov)
- SPS officials stated that all TCHS transfer students must enroll in their district public school; **there would be no exceptions to this policy.**
- Registration Information will be made available by the public schools
- All student medical/health records must be current/updated. This is mandatory. No student will be allowed to enter school without updated health records.
- School counselors will be available to review Trinity student transcripts and assist in course selections (student scheduling) at pre-arranged dates to be determined, at their new schools.

- Please note the following, pertinent to TCHS courses and credits:
 - For the most part, our courses are in appropriate alignment with SPS and State of Connecticut graduation requirements
 - SPS, however, **will not accept credit for Religion course(s) or Reach-Out (community service)**
 - There is also a distinction between schools as to how PE and Health are conducted. At Trinity, our students take one semester during both 9th and 10th grade when both courses are combined and students receive **.5 credits**. The public schools mandate separate gym and health courses during different semesters, so their counselors will schedule students accordingly, so that all credits are met.
 - Another distinction is found in the area of Social Studies, pertaining to World History, Civics, and other Electives. Rising sophomores will be okay as they move forward, but rising juniors and seniors have to make certain adjustments in their schedules when it comes to Social Studies. Their new counselors will assist them in the process, to assure that they meet all graduation courses and credit requirements
 - Math and World Language **Placement** is *also crucial*; please stress this as you discuss scheduling at your new school
 - AP and Honors level course placement should also follow your student's plans and aspirations
 - Both WHS and SHS have an abundance of UCONN Early College Experience Courses (ECE) where students can be eligible to take AP classes (that are also a dual enrollment where a separate transcript from UCONN is awarded at successful completion of the course) a good example at Trinity would be our Mrs. DeMassa's AP US & AP European History courses.
 - We also encourage a full day of courses at your students new school; avoid "free periods" / study halls. Public schools have a variety of elective courses in The Arts, Business, and a wide array of specialized programs that introduce a whole world of new learning opportunities to our students

Please also remember that if your child is eligible for Special Education Services and has an existing IEP (Individualized Education Plan) composed and monitored by the SPS, **it's important to mention that in the registration process**. The same would be true for those students who carry a 504 Student Accommodation Plan.

- The Department Head of Special Education at Westhill is Elayne Cuttitta: ECuttitta@stamfordct.gov (203) 977-4463
- The Department Head of Special Education at Stamford High is Deborah Perry: DPerry@stamfordct.gov (203) 977-4591

Continued Info and Updates:

- We still haven't heard from many parents as to where your student will be attending school next year. Please continue to update us.
- Parents planning to send their children to other Catholic or private schools: if you still haven't advised us of our specific plans, please let us know, ASAP, so we can forward records.
- For our families residing in towns outside of Stamford, including Out of State: we want to also assist if you plan to send your child to your local district school. Please advise us of your plans soon. Perhaps some of the information shared about Stamford Public Schools pertains to your public school system as well.

To all our families: we wish everyone, all of God's continued best blessings during these very difficult days, and beyond. May the many wonderful spiritual values and special traditions of our school community remain with your family always.

Please feel free to continue seeking our assistance and support. Thank you. God Bless.

Mr. Scott Smith
Principal
Trinity Catholic High School

Mr. John Carrigan
Director of Guidance
Trinity Catholic High School

SS-JC/ssm
2020-21 School Year