OPEN HOUSE SPEECH

FOR

GENE FENNELL

REVISED

Hello everyone and welcome to this year’s open house here at Holy Trinity High School. For those of you here today, you have some important choices to make and we are really honored that you have chosen to visit us to see what we offer. For those of you who may not know, I am Principal Gene Fennell and it has been my privilege to welcome returning students and potential new students for the past \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ years. Holy Trinity High School is gearing up to celebrate its fiftieth anniversary as a school that really serves our community and its future leaders, and every year the anticipation to meet new students and families and introduce them to Holy Trinity while nurturing current attendees and watching them grow and learn, has really become, for me, one of the highlights of the school year. We are all very aware of the pressures that life presents in today’s world, especially for you who are just learning to think independently as you begin to build upon your foundations for your future, and we truly believe that the education, cultural and athletic offerings, and of course the spiritual guidance we offer at this school are the perfect way to prepare for college, adulthood, and the professional world. Life around us has become more and more complicated and challenging, but having a school experience like Holy Trinity to “come home to” with faculty, administration and students to mentor, guide and partner each one of you acts as a real oasis in life. (**If you want to acknowledge the Superintendent of Schools and the Bishop, you can say**) I am sure that Bishop Murphy and Sister Joanne Callahan, our Superintendent of Schools (?) are both equally as enthusiastic as I am to meet and greet you.

Each one of you found Holy Trinity Diocesan High School in your own special way. Whether it was through a friend or relative or a member of our church that you may have met, I want to thank you for your time and consideration in being here today. We have lots of news to share with you and it is our intention that you really relate to what you hear and feel the spirit that energizes all of us … After all, there can never be too many enthusiastic and spirited Titans!

As I said, this year we’ve got news, and in anticipation of an exciting future and in acknowledgement of the importance that our students truly feel they are a vital part of our modern school community with traditional spiritual values, we are proud to say that we, too, want to grow and evolve with the times, and so it’s with great pride that we are about to introduce a new image for Holy Trinity as well!! After all, we all work tirelessly to give our students the foundation for positive self-expression in all aspects of life, so it made sense that we do the same for our school. We’ve worked hard on this project because we wanted people like you, who are first learning about Holy Trinity, to have a clear picture of who we are, what we believe in, and how we serve the community. Our new logo represents strength and supportiveness. Our new motto, “HOW HIGH SCHOOL SHOULD BE” really says something about us. We, meaning the staff, faculty, and advisors want to insure that you have the richest and most nurturing high school experience available-from anywhere. We do believe this is how high school should be. We have what it takes to keep your entire being engaged mentally, spiritually, emotionally and intellectually and we hope you agree and join us!

We are proud of the stellar accomplishments of our students and alumni, and I am thrilled to announce that our graduating class of 2013 has achieved even greater milestones than in previous years. The great thing about Holy Trinity’s students is that each year truly informs the following graduating classes and the mission of excellence takes on expanded meaning each successive year. The graduating class of 2013 consisted of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ students. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_% have gone on to college and have raised an impressive total of $\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ in scholarship grants. To further support the expression of our goals, we have expanded our mission and clarified our purpose in six **key points** designed for you to understand and to be inspired to join us and see where YOUR potential lies. Those key points are:

* **BE YOURSELF HERE**- No matter where your interests may lie, no matter what you dream of becoming when you graduate from school, at Holy Trinity each student is encouraged to be exactly who he or she is. We believe that kids come here to learn what they need to learn in order to change the world for the better and not just “fit in.”
* **PREPARE FOR MORE THAN JUST COLLEGE**-I am proud to say that our seniors consistently earn millions of dollars in college scholarships, but I’m even more proud to tell you that Holy Trinity prepares you for more than just college. We do our best to prepare you for **life**. Our school-wide culture realistically reflects the world’s diversity, our lively classroom atmosphere promotes vibrant dialogue, and our advisors encourage discoveries that can only be found on those roads … and classes… less traveled.
* **LIVE YOUR FAITH**- Our devotion to our faith is not represented “in name only.” Here at Holy Trinity, we empower each one of our students to live a faith based life, by encouraging continual exploration of your own inner spirituality, while seeing to it that you are engaged in the process of creating, maintaining, and demonstrating many seen and unseen acts of kindness and selflessness on campus, at home, during school service projects …basically wherever you are is an opportunity to care for your fellow person.
* **KNOW THAT YOU CAN DO ANYTHING**-With four years of Holy Trinity on your side as well as your integrity and caring inspired by your Catholic values, you will have the tools you need to be as great as you can possibly be. Your education here at Holy Trinity will strengthen your confidence. The future really is what you make of it.
* **ACHIEVE BEYOND ANYONE’S EXPECTATIONS**- No matter the level of class you’re in, your teachers and advisors are committed to your success. Imagine outperforming anyone’s expectations…especially your own!
* **FIND YOUR GIFT**-Our courses, programs, and extracurricular activities-sports, theater, dance, are designed to bring out the curiosity… and the BEST in each one of you. You may be a ninth grader today, but tomorrow? Who knows what greatness you are destined for. Here at Holy Trinity, you’ll have the means to explore your options.

I hope I’ve given you all something, or **A LOT** to think of. This is an exciting time in your lives. Your high school years form the foundation for your adult lives and I want to thank you for considering Holy Trinity. You’ve got a big decision to make and I really want you to know that attending Holy Trinity is a wonderful choice. We look forward to seeing you in September! Thank you all!