OPEN HOUSE SPEECH

FOR

GENE FENNELL

Hello everyone and welcome to this year’s open house for prospective ninth graders here at Holy Trinity. 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. 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. I think we can all see that as the world around us becomes more and more complicated and challenging, having a school experience like Holy Trinity to “come home to” with faculty, administration and students to nurture, guide and partner each one of us, 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 like what you hear and want to join 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 of having a strong and positive identity, we are proud to introduce a new image for our school as well!! After all, we here at Trinity all work tirelessly to give our students the foundation for positive self expression in all aspects of life, it only 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 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 believe we have what it takes to keep your entire being engaged mentally, spiritually, emotionally and intellectually.

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!