

Date: April 16th, 2020
Topic: Happy Easter Break!

Dear TFS parents and faculty/staff:

Good afternoon, I hope that your Easter Break is restful and you are all enjoying good health! We continue to pray for all of you and we miss you greatly. Our teachers and staff are preparing to return to Distance Learning next week, and I wanted to update everyone with where we stand with the continuation of online instruction.

In my principal [forums](#) last week, I mentioned my growing concern for the possibility of us not returning to campus this academic year. I have not heard anything officially, but it does seem that is the way things are leaning (22 states have now announced they are closing for the year and 3 are recommending it. This is up from 11 states on March 31st). I hope this is not the case, but as I learn more information I will keep the community fully informed. In the meantime, we will continue with our current Distance Learning model.

We have some exciting virtual events starting next week:

- Next Monday, April 20th, we kick off our celebration of Earth Week. Please see the **attached document** with all of the details. A huge thank you to Valerie MacNabb, Jenn Cogburn and Sue Burdett for designing this week. I hope you all have the chance to get outside and appreciate our world!
- We will be hosting a “TFS Spirit Week” the week of April 27th. Each day will have a fun-filled theme with various exciting activities. Details to follow soon.
- The week after April 30th has been established as the week to showcase all of our TFS artists. Your specials faculty sent an email a few weeks ago with details, including the 4-30 submission deadline, and more info is [here](#).

As we enter this next month of virtual learning, our faculty continue to improve and refine methods for online delivery. They will be recording themselves more often to teach lessons or concepts and will provide that information along with any documents or packets to your students. We will continue to optimize and utilize the Zoom platform as often as possible. While there are no distance learning Oscars, we are taking nominations for the best teaching videos!! These videos are a great way to give students the opportunity to see their teachers, even if it is only as a recorded version!

The administration team continues to work to design changes necessary to accommodate this Distance Learning environment. For example, we are looking at how best to grade and complete report cards, as well as addressing any other concerns. Please let the assistant principals or myself know if you have any issues. This is a difficult time for all of us. The hard work at home is very much appreciated and valued. Our long term goal is to be able to assure the success of your students.

Hang in there! We will all get through this and come out as a stronger community! Continue to enjoy your Easter break and we will start back on Monday with classes and our morning prayer.

Sincerely,

Michael Watson
Principal at The Franciscan School