

April 22 2020

Dear TFS parents and faculty/staff:

In my update last week, I conveyed my growing concern for the possibility of us not returning to campus this academic year. Tomorrow we are resuming our local Catholic principal's meeting and will have the Catholic Schools Office representatives in attendance. I will update the TFS community if anything official is presented in relation to the pandemic response.

At this point 39 states have announced they are closing school systems for the year. I remain hopeful this is not the case in North Carolina, but the tide is against it. In the meantime, we will continue with our current distance learning model and work to refine and improve our instruction deliveries. As always your feedback is important so feel free to reach out to us with any questions or concerns.

We continue to host several virtual events in the coming weeks. I hope you will participate!

- Our celebration of Earth Week continues through this Friday, April 24th. . Please send your earth week photos to photos@stfrancisraleigh.org so we can share with the whole TFS community. Again, a big thanks for the hard work of Valerie MacNabb, Jenn Cogburn and Sue Burdett in designing this week.
- Middle School students don't forget to share your talents for our virtual talent show! The due date is this Friday, April 24th! All who would like to participate please submit your entries [here](#). Additional details were provided in the 4/21 edition of Tidbits.
- Next week we are hosting a "TFS Spirit Week". Each day will have a fun filled theme with various tasks, etc. Details are provided in the attached mp4 video.
- April 30th is the due date for submissions to our virtual art show. Submission details are included in the document [linked here](#), so please read each category carefully. Any art made from home can be shared on social media using **#TFSARTfromHOME**.

I know we are all exhausted from dealing with the situation we have been tasked to handle over the last 5 weeks. As I mentioned to the faculty in an email today, an analogy I am unapologetically stealing is one that really captures the current situation:

We often hear "we are all in the same boat", but we aren't. We are all in the same storm in the same sea, but some are on cruise ships, and some are on large power boats, and some are in rowboats; and some have already crashed on the rocks!

Please know we recognize and appreciate everyone's personal situation. We are working hard to put plans in place to assure all your children are well-prepared to move forward into next year. Thank you for your continued support of The Franciscan School.

With much appreciation,

Michael Watson
Principal at The Franciscan School