

Date: July 1, 2020

Topic: TFS Update: Looking Ahead

Dear TFS parents and staff:

Good Morning!

I was troubled last night to learn that the Governor will not be addressing his requirements and recommendations for opening schools as originally planned in his scheduled July 1st press conference.

This, of course, is disappointing as it puts things in further shadow as we try to ascertain what the guidance from the State will be around public schools. Of course, as an independent Catholic school, we are not bound by the requirements placed on the public schools. However, as citizens of North Carolina, we do seek the advice from the medical, educational, and governmental leaders who have been elected or appointed to serve our State's people. I remain hopeful that guidance from the Governor and the Department of Health and Human Services will be provided soon so we can make wise and safe choices for our schools.

As a reminder, all of the school principals in the Diocese of Raleigh will meet on July 6th to discuss the options available for Diocesan schools as per the direction of the Catholic Schools Office. Hopefully, we will be able to discuss and finalize local school decisions and how to implement them. I plan to bring the feedback from our school survey, as well as recommendations from the task force members, who have been working to establish options for TFS, to that decision-making process. I look forward to sharing the details of the principal's meeting with you next week.

Looking ahead, I believe the most likely, and best, option for TFS will be a hybrid model of distance and in-class learning. There may be more in-class instruction for the lower grades and more online for the older students. This is due to the fact that older students have the ability and maturity to be able to be more independent and successful with online learning, and younger students need more "hands-on" assistance from our faculty.

We continue to seek your feedback and perspective, so please complete the re-opening survey [here](#) if you haven't already. This survey will be open through **July 3rd**.

Thank you for your help, and for your continued patience, prayers and support!

With appreciation,

Michael Watson
Principal
The Franciscan School