

Date: July 10th 2020

Dear TFS parents,

I hope you are all well and enjoying your summer!

I write to you today with the outline of our plan and the update of the policies that will need to be in place for the start of our school year. We were required by the Diocese of Raleigh Catholic Schools Office (CSO) to formulate plans under the [Strong-Schools-NC-Public-Health-Toolkit](#) recommendations. There are three levels of plans required and we followed these prescriptions to formulate the attached document.

This document remains a draft and we continue to evaluate our facilities and personnel as to the best way to achieve the maximum student “on campus” participation, while assuring the safest and most academically stimulating environment for all our students and faculty.

Several caveats with the attached plan:

- The Franciscan School is subject to the requirements of the NC Department of Health and Human Services (NCDHHS) and the CSO. We must follow the requirements they put into place for schools and gatherings in general. This is NOT a 100% local decision-making process.
- There will always be an “online option” for students who need to access that option for whatever reason.
- We DO NOT envision coming back under Plan A, as that is minimally increasing distance with essentially normal schedules. Given the current COVID-19 case counts, and the recommendations of NCDHHS and the Governor, this is currently not a viable option for schools.
- Plan B is an enhanced distancing option that we are currently evaluating as to specifics. Our intention is to achieve the maximum student “on campus” participation, while assuring the safest and most academically stimulating environment for all our students. The plan under this option MAY vary by the age of the student because older students are more mature and able to work more independently than younger students.
- Plan B will require an altered schedule with classroom cohorts that would remain together for the majority of the day in a socially distanced environment. This will be a different environment for all faculty, staff, families, and students, and will not resemble the normal schedules we have had in the past.

- Plan C is solely distance learning. This option is not envisioned as viable, EXCEPT under a widespread medical mandate from the state or in consideration of a local medical or NCDHHS requirements.
- We are currently evaluating our ability to provide Bridges (before and after school care for students), especially given the cohort model we are utilizing. It may not be possible to hold Bridges and maintain the restrictions we need to have in place with the available facilities and personnel.

Please know we are being cautious and thorough in our planning. In order to refine our planning and make the most accurate plans possible, please complete this [form](#). **The responses to this form DO NOT lock you into a decision**; we just need to be sure our plans are viable given the levels of interest in the options.

We continue to have the utmost focus on providing an engaging and enlightening educational experience, while maintaining the highest standards of safety and consideration for the health of all students, families, faculty and staff.

Thank you again for your continued patience, prayers and support of The Franciscan School!

With much appreciation,

Michael Watson
Principal at The Franciscan School