

Date: July 14, 2020

Topic: TFS Update: More Thoughts on Re-Opening

Dear TFS parents and faculty/staff:

I appreciate the thoughtful comments we have received directly from parents and in the Google form concerning the emailed re-opening plan sent out last week. As a reminder, this was the Catholic Schools Office (CSO) required document composed of general broad strokes covering the categories of plans we were asked to design for re-opening; Plans A, B, and C.

I write to you today to further clarify our plan, specifically plan B, and to remind you of our Principal's Forum tomorrow. Here is the information for the Principal's Forum:

Principal Forum

10:00 AM, Wednesday July 15th

<https://zoom.us/j/99079537519?pwd=NTdoVS9jYnFpWmtTRk13bXRjSE1qZz09>

Meeting ID: 990 7953 7519

Password: 9bXukB

As mentioned, I wanted to also provide additional clarity around the overall plan sent out last week:

- It is NOT a local TFS decision whether to go with plan A, B, or C, even though I wish it was so. Even with all my “principal power”, I cannot decide to open under Plan A, or even Plan B, without explicit permission from the Diocese of Raleigh CSO, the same as any other Catholic School. The Franciscan School is subject to the requirements of the CSO and the NC Department of Health and Human Services (NCDHHS).
- Our goal is to provide the best environment for each family with the primary consideration being the health and safety of all students, families, faculty and staff.
- Plan B is the most probable scenario at this time. It is a hybrid plan that requires less than full classroom capacity and 6-foot distancing at all times. Additionally, there are mask requirements and limited movement within schools. Our intention is to achieve the maximum student “on campus” participation, while assuring the safest and most academically stimulating environment for all our students.
- Plan B will be a different environment for all faculty, staff, families, and students, and will NOT resemble the normal schedule as we have had in the past.
- This year will be different and unlike any other year. We will provide an excellent educational experience, albeit in a non-traditional environment.

Governor Cooper is expected to give a press conference today at 3:00PM to discuss schools, and hopefully some clarity will also be provided. That being said, we realize that people want time to consider our plan, when it comes out, and all their options. To help with that, I have decided to **move the first tuition payment from July 20th to August 5th**. This will allow us to come up with a complete plan, hopefully by next week, and for you to be able to consider what the best choice is for your family.

I will emphasize that we will offer a great option for an excellent Catholic education, in an atmosphere of Faith and service to others, as we always have offered. Please consider all that TFS has provided, and will continue to provide, and do realize that all we do here is in pursuit of providing an exceptional education for all.

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

With much appreciation,

Michael Watson
Principal at The Franciscan School