

Date: July 29th, 2020

Topic: TFS Update: Re-Opening Information and Forms

Dear TFS parents and faculty/staff:

I hope each of you are well and enjoying the last few weeks of summer. As we get closer to the start of the new academic year, I am including some additional details and clarification for our school plan, which is plan B. I also invite and encourage you to join me on Friday for a Principal Forum. Please see details below:

Principal Forum

Friday July 31, 2020

10:00 AM

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81158677792?pwd=cmk1NUFmQ01ReXovcFo5dE5keWYwQT09>

Meeting ID: 811 5867 7792

Passcode: 026488

Find your local phone number: <https://us02web.zoom.us/u/ksXpRgrKL>

I understand there are still some questions in regards to our plan for the new academic year. To help address some of those questions, please see additional clarification below.

- Our goal is to provide the best environment for each family, with the primary consideration being the health and safety of all students, faculty, and staff.
- To ensure a successful start to the new academic year, we will change to a staggered start to the year. We will alternate across the first 3 days of the year to get the students used to the new classroom schedules, the Plan B requirements, and to “dry-run” some of our altered or new procedures. That schedule will be:

- Wednesday, August 19th, **ONLY K-2nd grades** are on campus and all online K-2 students will be virtual.

- Thursday, August 20th, **ONLY grades 3rd, 4th, and 7th** are on campus and all online 3rd, 4th, and 7th grade students will be virtual.

- Friday, August 21st, **ONLY grades 5th, 6th and 8th** are on campus and all online 5th, 6th and 8th grade students will be virtual.

- Monday, August 24th, will be the first day of the “new normal” schedule for both on-campus and online students.

- The Franciscan School is subject to the requirements of the NC Department of Health and Human Services (NCDHHS), as outlined in the [Strong-Schools-NC-Public-Health-Toolkit](#), and the Diocesan Catholic Schools Office (CSO). We chose to start under Plan B, as did all of the other Diocese of Raleigh Catholic schools, based on decisions from the Governor and the NCDHHS, and follow-up decisions by the CSO. The TFS Plan B, previously outlined and provided again [here](#), 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.

- Temperature checks of students will be done each day during morning car pool before students exit their cars. If temperature is 100F or above, one recheck is allowed.
- Masks will be worn the vast majority of the time, both in the classroom and outside, but breaks will be given.
- Students will be in the same classroom cohort for most of the day, with time to go outside the classroom for breaks as necessary at the discretion of the teacher.
- Grades K-6th are able to attend school every day.
- Grade 7 will attend Monday, Tuesday and alternating Wednesdays “in-house” and the other days of the week at home in “Distance Learning”.
- Grade 8 will attend Thursday, Friday and alternating Wednesdays “in-house” and the other days of the week at home in “Distance Learning”.
- A 100% online “Distance Learning” option is available for any family who prefer this choice for whatever reason. We will hold commitment for this option open until **5:00PM on Thursday, July 30th**. That commitment form for 100% online learning is [here](#) .

- Plan B will be a different environment for all faculty, staff, and students, and will NOT resemble the normal schedule as we have had in the past.

- We will **NOT be able to provide** the Bridges Program of before-school and after-school care.

- Middle School league sports are suspended indefinitely.
- We will not hold after school clubs.
- We will have a staggered car pool and different timing for both morning and afternoon car pool. Details will be shared in the next two weeks.
- We will be providing the Attestation Form, a Media Permission Form for distance learning, and the TFS COVID-19 Honor Code form in the next communication to be completed before school starts.

Lastly, I am looking for some parents who may want to help us in moving some furniture around to different classrooms starting at 8:30AM on Tuesday, August 4th. If you are available, please contact Mike Watson at michael.watson@stfrancisraleigh.org. We would appreciate your help!

The faculty, staff, and administration will continue to provide an excellent Catholic education in an atmosphere of faith, academics, and service to others. The challenge we are presented with will hopefully allow us to grow stronger together as a community, and we appreciate your prayers and enthusiastic support of The Franciscan School!

With much appreciation,

Michael Watson
Principal at The Franciscan School