

Date: June 25th, 2020

Topic: TFS Update: Looking Ahead

Dear TFS parents:

Good afternoon!

I wanted to reach out to you today with an update of where we are at this moment, and to ask for your assistance. Yesterday, the Governor announced that “Phase 2” will continue for at least three more weeks before he would consider “Phase 3”; that announcement is [here](#). While this is disappointing, we continue to wait for his promised guidance on schools. As review, the Governor has said he will offer the State’s requirements and recommendations for schools before July 1st. When that information is provided, several meetings will occur. Our Re-Opening Task Force will meet next week or on July 6th to consider our local TFS options. Additionally, all of the school principals in the Diocese will meet on July 6th to discuss the options available for schools as per the direction of the Catholic Schools Office. Once we have that guidance and know where the boundaries are, we can finalize the local decisions and how to implement them.

As speculation, I do not see a 100% Distant Learning, as we did the last trimester of 2019-20, as being a viable option for us, unless absolutely required. The only reason that our Distance Learning worked so well was that there was a relationship built over the first 2/3 of the year between the teachers and students; we would not have that relationship built up at the start of the year. I believe the most likely option will be a hybrid model of distance and in-class learning, or Option B as discussed in the Governor’s June 8th announcement. Locally, it may be more in-class for the lower grades and more online for the older students, but, again, this is my speculation at this point. I share your frustration and regret the inability for us to offer a precise plan for the start of the school year until we receive this guidance.

We do, of course, want your feedback and perspective as well. Please complete the Re-Opening survey [here](#) to let us know your thoughts on various options for our re-opening for the 2020-21 school year. This survey will be open through July 3rd so we can have the data for review and consideration as we meet on July 6th, so please share your opinions with us.

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

With appreciation,

Michael Watson
Principal at The Franciscan School