

March 10, 2021

Dear TFS Parents,

I write to you today with good news. This morning the NC legislature and the governor have [agreed](#) to allow K-12th grades to open under "Plan A" if the local school district agrees. We appreciate the legislature and Governor working together to help improve the situation for students in our state. Some key points of this plan:

- The plan calls for all elementary schools to open under "Plan A," a category that means full in-person classes without the distancing requirements of "Plan B," which has typically been implemented as a mix of in-person and online instruction to cut class sizes and spread students out.
- Middle schools and high schools around the state would pick from "Plan A", "Plan B" or a blend of both under the deal.
- All grades still have to provide parents with an online-only option.

So what does this mean as we close in on the March 19th deadline for re-enrollment and your planning for next year?

These are, of course, the requirements for public schools. However, the option to have K-12th grades under "Plan A" allows for the Diocese to consider that opportunity for our Diocesan Catholic schools for next year. If the Diocese follows this policy and allows "Plan A", and we feel after consulting with our experts in the field, the parish administration, and school administration that we can open safely, we will have classes that are much more normal in capacity and allow for a much better teaching schedule for our faculty. This would mean every grade on campus on a 5-day a week schedule.

The COVID-19 cases in the state have been steadily declining since January 11th, and we pray for everyone's benefit that this continues. If so, and vaccinations continue apace, we can provide the TFS experience you have all come to expect over the years. Remember we have a Principal Forum next week on March 17th at 6:30PM. I will be happy to share what I know, such as it is, at that time, and will answer any questions you might have as well.

We appreciate your patience and your flexibility this year. We will learn a lot more over the next few weeks, but we can see the light ahead. Always know we value your support, advocacy and confidence in The Franciscan School!

Sincerely,
Mike Watson
Principal at The Franciscan School