

March 23, 2021

Dear TFS Parents,

Good afternoon. I wanted to reach out with a brief update given all the recent news. Yesterday, the Wake County school system [voted](#) to approve in-person learning for grades 6-12th. Additionally, last Friday, the CDC changed their [recommendation](#) on the social distancing required in classrooms to 3 feet from the 6 feet we have been using in the past. These are important developments as we work to return to the much more normal configuration in our classrooms here at TFS.

As discussed in my last letter, these are the requirements for public schools. As independent schools, the Diocese of Raleigh can determine how we will be structured, and we continue to expect their guidance soon. This will probably occur when the new NC DHHS Strong Schools Toolkit is released. However, we are making contingency plans even now to see if we can make the remainder of this year an even better experience.

Looking ahead again to the 2021-22 school year, we will have classes that are much more normal in capacity and allow for a better teaching schedule for our faculty. This would mean every grade on campus for a 5-day per week schedule. We currently continue to work with the larger community and our advisory bodies on the best way to assure the health of all on our campus until the pandemic abates. As a reminder:

- We remain under Plan B for the time being; this includes 6 foot distancing in classrooms, masking, and being in cohorts at all times.
- If you travel or have potential exposures, we ask you to contact the school as to whether to quarantine after that travel or to discuss the exposure. We are happy to allow livestreaming after travel, or due to other potential exposures, to assure the safety of those on campus.
- We continue to ask you to limit exposures outside of school, whether through travel, club sports, or other activities to allow us to continue to function in the safe way we have for this year.

We appreciate your patience and your flexibility this year. We hope to learn more before Easter break, and we will update everyone as soon as we know more.

Thank you for your support, advocacy of, and confidence in The Franciscan School!

Sincerely,
Mike Watson

Principal at The Franciscan School