

March 25 2020

Topic: Looking Ahead

Dear TFS parents and faculty/staff:

Good evening, I hope your week is going well and you remain healthy and safe.

The Franciscan School has been working this week with the Diocese of Raleigh, Bishop Zarama, and the Catholic Schools Office to determine our next steps for curriculum delivery over the next few weeks. After a meeting today of the Diocesan Catholic Schools leadership, we received the following announcement: *“The Catholic Schools Office of the Diocese of Raleigh has set the goal of doing what is best for our students and families during the public health state of emergency. North Carolina’s public health leadership has asked that schools in the state not return to on-site classes until May 18th. Our schools will abide by this guidance.”*

If the public health state of emergency changes before May 18th, there is the possibility we could be back sooner.

In addition to this news, we have also been given additional restrictions placed upon us from Durham, and potentially soon Wake, county for “stay at home” orders. Given this mandate, we will evaluate how materials can be transferred home moving forward. It is very likely that materials will be delivered electronically. Faculty will work directly with their individual classes on those instructions as soon as possible once restrictions are announced. The faculty and staff will also continue to partner with our “at home” teachers and work to maintain the best academic environment for our children.

Our teachers and staff are always available to answer questions you might have about their classes and to assist with Distance Learning guidance. [Mike](#), [Michele](#) and [Colette](#) remain available to answer questions as well. Additionally, please continue to utilize our [COVID-19](#) news page for resources, information, and “community connections”, including our morning prayer videos.

Please note that we will still follow our Easter break schedule, which includes no classes beginning Thursday, April 9 (Holy Thursday) through April 19th. This time off will provide students, parents as well as our dedicated faculty and staff, a well-deserved break.

We know this is not the spring trimester that any us of could have imagined. However, we remain dedicated to providing all of our students with the best education possible. We continue to be, as we always have been, a Catholic and Franciscan community walking together as lifelong learners who strive to live and love as Jesus did.

Sincerely,

Michael Watson
Principal at The Franciscan School