

Date: September 3, 2020

Dear TFS parents:

I hope you are starting to settle into a rhythm for the academic year. It has been a tremendously busy couple of weeks as our faculty and staff have been working hard to establish a sense of normalcy and routine for the students. Given the dual structure of on-campus and distance learning this year, we have essentially established all new protocols and procedures for everything we do. We really have created an entirely new school structure.

We continue to appreciate your feedback and forbearance as we work through all of the new processes and find the best balance for our faculty/staff and all of our families. We are working hard to formulate, test, and put plans in place to accomplish all we need to do. I can assure you that there will surely be more changes down the road as we refine and improve our procedures throughout the academic year. The watchwords for all of us this year continue to be patience and flexibility.

As we work to accommodate both on-campus and distance learners, we ask that everyone be considerate of the new dynamics our faculty are experiencing. The livestreaming has taken a great toll on our faculty and many have higher stress levels than I would like to see. Although seemingly small details, when students arrive late to class, have Wi-Fi issues or even lose their connection, this takes increased effort by the faculty to address those needs and takes away from class time for all. Please review the Distance Learning guidelines [here](#) and let us know if you have any questions.

We discussed our policy on distance learning in the most recent Tidbits. If your child is sick for longer than a day, we are more than happy to accommodate them on the livestream. However, we also want them to take time to recover and feel better. They will not fall behind nor “be punished” for missing class when they are sick. Our faculty will do everything they can to assure that children who are sick, or with whom parents may have concerns given certain symptoms, can stay home and continue their studies when healthy and able.

As we navigate these uncharted territories, we all must work to find a way to balance the health concerns of our entire community. As a reminder, please find the guidelines to proper mask wearing [here](#) and the TFS COVID-19 Workflow [here](#). Please save and review these documents.

We appreciate your prayers for, and enthusiastic support of, our faculty and staff as we learn our way through this new school environment.

With much appreciation,

Michael Watson  
Principal at The Franciscan School