



A Message from Dr. Robert Andrews, Headmaster

Regarding School Re-opening, August 13, 2020

Dear Patriot Family,

During these past weeks, all of us have endured the ups and downs of the uncertainties related to the dynamics of life during a pandemic. Our desire, to the best of our ability, is to implement policies that will provide for this goal.

In order to make informed decisions as to how we will provide a safe return to our school campus, we continue to research best practices to follow. We have established a Medical Advisory Committee, which is made up of FCS parents who are also medical professionals. This committee has met frequently throughout the summer and provided informed guidance as to the decisions being made as we begin school for the fall term. I have provided this team with information regarding how our parents have indicated their preferences regarding returning to school or learning remotely. In consultation with this team this week, recommendations have been made and accepted by our school administrative team, that certain statistical benchmarks (downward trend of the percentage of positive tests, number of cases, hospitalization numbers, in Miami-Dade County) must be met before we return to on-campus learning. In light of these recommendations and acting on advice from our medical professionals, **we are moving the start date for the first day of school for students for on-campus learning and remote learning to August 31**. If the established benchmarks are not met for on-campus learning, all students would participate remotely. During the week of August 24th, FCS faculty will be reaching out to all students and parents in virtual "Meet the Teacher" events (details will be provided). Throughout the week of August 24th, teachers will be available to assist students with the implementation of both the in-person and remote learning platforms as we begin the new school year. Each teacher is preparing to deliver both live in-person teaching and remote teaching for students who are learning from home.

We are currently preparing the campus for students and faculty to return. Our hallways and stairways are designated to flow in one direction and will be monitored for congestion. Middle school and high school student lockers will not be in use. Each desk throughout our campus will be separated from other desks and equipped with a transparent screen which in combination with the requirement to wear a face mask will reduce contact between students. We are also installing plexiglass barriers in our computer, science, and art labs. School lunch will be streamlined (more information to come) to provide rapid delivery and additional seating provided throughout the campus to maintain proper distancing.

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Our cleaning service will be sanitizing high touch areas throughout the day and restrooms every 30 minutes. In addition, the night cleaning staff will continue to use VIREX 256 on all horizontal and vertical surfaces every evening in every classroom.

In all of the decisions that are being made during these times, the safety of our students and faculty is of the highest importance. We believe that the measures we are taking will help us reach this goal. Please pray with us for wisdom during these days of planning as we trust in the Lord for wisdom and protection. We will provide an update to this announcement on Thursday, August 20.

Robert Andrews, Ph.D.
Headmaster
In His Service,

Robert Andrews, Ph.D.
Headmaster

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