

2020-2021

Reopening of Franklin Christian Academy

This has been a challenging year for all of us. From job and business disruption to illness and the significant changes to daily life, every family in our community has felt loss of some kind. Our students have felt big losses as well – from social losses to academic disruptions to dealing with anxiety and unknowns.

As we move into this next year, our commitment to fulfilling ***our mission of providing challenging academics, life giving community and transforming discipleship*** for our families is foremost in our planning. We are seeking to accomplish this mission while being responsible and conscientious about the health risks we face. Many of you have shared that finding a balance as parents in protecting your kids and fostering their continued development in this unknown territory is really tough. FCA is with you in both our desire to protect them physically and our goal of supporting their physical, emotional and spiritual development.

While we watch our country quarrel over important topics daily, we believe FCA can be a rare and necessary example of a community operating together in grace. We won't agree on everything, but we can agree that loving God and loving others is our primary responsibility as believers (Matthew 22:37-40). We know that our families are diverse in their views and desires around these reopening decisions, and we won't pretend there are any easy answers in this new challenge that we are all facing. As a board and as a staff, we can make this promise to each and every family in our community.

Central to our mission is the total well-being of your child and family.

While we have a clear mission, we believe that a policy or a strategic plan should never come before loving your community well. We will always do our best to make decisions that we believe will support the health and well-being of your family and of the community.

That will never change.

As a result, we are happy to announce that our plan is to return to our building for the upcoming academic year. Our faculty and staff are ready and eager to begin our new year and to see all of your smiling faces. The following overview outlines our reopening plan. Our staff has been working diligently to prepare a safe and well-structured environment for your children, and we are prepared to walk through this season well with our community.

Finally, this plan will be revisited by FCA leadership at the end of first quarter. As new information, data or best practices are available, we will modify this plan accordingly and communicate those changes to the community.

In Grace,

FCA Board of Directors & the FCA Administration and Staff

REOPENING PLAN – UPDATED JULY 23, 2020

We will return to in person instruction in the classroom. Relationships are central to the educational process and we know children learn best when able to interact face to face with their teachers and peers. A high priority is to keep our building open and allow for direct instruction to take place all year. With that in mind we have made some modifications to our plan dated June 19.

We know that Covid-19 is here to stay, and we expected cases would rise as we reopened. We also know that this virus is devastating to some and hardly affects others.

We will implement as many practices as possible to help mitigate the risk for the vulnerable in our community (diabetic, hypertension, grandparents, immune compromised, etc.) while still allowing our students to attend in person instruction. We cannot prevent anyone from getting this virus. **This plan is all about risk management.** We announced some of these in June and based on new information, you will see a few modifications as well.

Based on best practices from the FCA Reopening Admin Task Force, Association of Christian Schools International, Tennessee Association of Independent Schools, Independent School Management Inc, as well as CDC guidelines and TN Dept of Health, here are those protocols:

OUTDOOR LEARNING

At FCA we have always encouraged teachers and students to spend as much time outdoors as possible. We believe this will be a key element as we distance students and provide fresh air.

- Garage doors on classrooms will be open as often as weather allows to allow for circulation of fresh air.
- Transfer between classes will take place on outside sidewalks as often as possible to minimize congestion in hallways.
- Outdoor tents have been purchased and learning areas will be set up where practical to allow for classes to meet outside as often as possible.

INSIDE BUILDINGS

- Masks for all staff and students will be required while in the building and while unable to physically distance as well as travel on the FCA bus to and from events. Masks will not be required while outside.
- Hand sanitization stations have been purchased and will be set up throughout the building to allow for hand sanitizing on a regular basis.
- We are implementing more aggressive cleaning procedures for the entire building, including regularly disinfecting classrooms.

- We will use Electrostatic Disinfection to help prevent and mitigate the virus.
- Whenever feasible or most helpful in stopping the spread, we will strive to practice physical distancing, which may include:
 - Spreading out students whenever we meet in the bleachers for assemblies or chapel
 - Splitting the student body for assemblies to limit the number congregating
 - Avoiding prolonged sitting shoulder to shoulder

WHEN YOU ARE ILL OR EXPOSED

If staff or a student is ill:

- Perhaps most importantly, students and staff must stay home when sick and/or running fever.
- Parents should conduct temperature checks on children before sending them to school.
- If a student has symptoms of an illness that we deem possibly contagious, there will be a station set up in the gym to isolate them until picked up.

If staff or a student has come in contact with someone that has Covid-19 or contracts Covid-19:

- If a student or staff has had close contact with a person with Covid-19, they will be asked to quarantine at home for the recommended CDC guideline of 14 days. Distance learning using google classroom will be made available for the student and teacher to continue responsibilities. Absences will not be counted for this reason.
- If a student or staff has reason to believe they have contracted Covid-19, or have tested positive, they should remain at home until at least 10 days since first symptoms of positive test (if asymptomatic) AND at least 24 hours with no fever and without fever reducing medication.
- If we have a positive Covid-19 case in our building, we will identify the classes attended by that student or staff and convey this information to parents.

Absentee policy/remote learning:

- Since we want students to stay at home if they feel sick, run a fever or have been in close contact with the virus, we will be adjusting our absentee policy for exam exemptions. Exemptions will only be determined by the grade in the class and not linked to absent days.
- Students under quarantine will be able to continue academics remotely.