

2020-2021

Reopening of Franklin Christian Academy

We are happy to announce that our plan is to return to our building for the upcoming academic year. This season has been trying for all of us and our nation. Our faculty and staff are ready and eager to begin our new year and see all of you.

As we move into this next year, our mission of challenging academics, life-giving community and transforming discipleship is foremost in our planning, yet we must also be responsible with the health risks we face.

We will return to in person learning in the classroom. Relationships are central to the educational process, and we know children learn best when they are able to interact face to face with their teachers and peers.

We are not naïve, and we recognize that Covid -19 is here to stay. As the city of Franklin and the State begins to reopen we may see a rise in cases. We are committed to do all that we can to protect the more vulnerable in our community and do all we can to slow the transmission. We are moving forward with this understanding and are implementing some new protocols.

Based on our consultation with the FCA Reopening Administrative Task Force, Association of Christian Schools International, Tennessee Association of Independent Schools, and Independent School Management Inc. we have developed the following reopening plans:

- Students and staff will stay home when sick and running fever.
- Parents are asked to take the temperature of their students and have them wash their hands before coming to school. We will also be taking temperatures with no contact thermometers at school when deemed necessary.
- If a student exhibits symptoms of an illness that we deem potentially contagious, there will be a station set up in the gym to separate them until they can be picked up. They will be given a mask while waiting.
- Masks for healthy students and staff will be allowed but will not be required. They are recommended if in close proximity for an extended period of time.
- Anyone coming to campus to drop off items and not requiring interaction with staff will drop them off at a designated area and not enter the building.
- Until further notice, all other visitors should make an appointment, wear a mask or face covering and have their temperature checked before entering the building.
- Hand sanitization stations have been purchased and will be set up throughout the building to allow for hand sanitizing on a regular basis.
- Garage doors in classrooms will be open as often as weather permits to allow for the circulation of fresh air.
- Transfer between classes can also take place on the outside sidewalk to minimize congestion in hallways.

- If a student or staff has had close contact with a person with Covid-19, they will be asked to quarantine themselves 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.
- Since we want students to stay home if they feel sick, run a fever or have been in close contact with the virus we will be adjusting our policy for exam exemptions. Exemptions will only be determined by the grade in the class and not linked to absent days.
- Since we want teachers to stay home if they feel sick, run a fever, or have been in close contact with the virus, We will need a more robust list of substitute teachers in the event teachers are absent. Please email Lisa Harris if you are interested in being placed on our substitute list at lharris@franklinchristianacademy.org
- We are implementing more aggressive cleaning procedures for the entire building, including regular disinfection of classroom desks and chairs after classes, and implementation of Electrostatic Disinfection to help prevent and mitigate virus exposure.
- If we have a positive Covid case in our building we will determine those in close contact, and ask that they quarantine. We will also close the building for one day for a deep cleaning.
- Students under quarantine will be able to continue academics remotely and return to the classroom once no illness is established for 14 days.
- Whenever feasible or most helpful in stopping spread, we will strive to practice physical distancing. We will spread out our students whenever we meet in the bleachers for assemblies or Chapel. Prolonged sitting shoulder to shoulder would not be best practice. If a student needs to sit and work with a tutor or other adult for an extended time or talk quietly and closely, they can wear masks or sit at a greater distance from one another with a table between them.

We are starting this fall with confidence that God directs our steps as we trust Him. We do realize that there may come a time when it becomes prudent to go to a staggered schedule for the safety of students and families and we will consider that option if and when that time comes. We are monitoring various information sources and will continue to update our protocols as needed in this fluid situation. Current and prospective FCA parents will be receiving a survey in the coming weeks so we can hear from you about any concerns you may have. Please be sure to fill that out so we can serve you to the best of our ability.