

Dear FCA Families,

July 14, 2020

We hope you have been enjoying the summer and the beautiful weather. We are excited to bring you the first ever Knights' News *Summer Edition*. We have great news to share about the reopening of school on August 24th. **We ask that you read this information in its entirety because we are addressing many of the questions that we have received.**

We believe that the best place for students is in school. Although distance learning allowed for students to remain on track academically it did not provide the complete experience any of us want for FCA students. The recent school considerations provided by the American Academy of Pediatrics state, "...AAP strongly advocates that all policy considerations for the coming school year should start with a goal of having students physically present in school. The importance of in-person learning is well-documented, and there is already evidence of the negative impacts on children because of school closures in the spring of 2020." We could not agree more!

We have heard from many of you over the last several months and there have been two consistent questions: 1) Will school be in-person 5 days a week? and 2) Will face masks be required? We are glad that we can finally provide answers to those questions. FCA will be providing 5 day a week onsite instruction for grades K-12 for the 20-21 school year. FCA is able to offer 5 day a week onsite instructions because we have smaller class sizes in a larger than average facility! Our reopening plan does include options for distance learning in the event that it is needed, but distance learning will only be instituted if mandated. Students in grades 3 and up are expected to and strongly encouraged to wear a mask, but masks are not required *in most situations*. Certain situations, without exception, will require a mask or a face shield.

At this time, we have only posted the mask (face covering) policy section of our reopening plan to the school website. You can find that policy at www.fairfieldchristianacademy.org under Information>Coronavirus Reopening Plan. Please note that information coming from the state of Ohio and the county health department is changing rapidly and it is quite possible that the mask policy could change prior to August 24th.

Our complete and detailed reopening plan will be released soon. Our reopening plan is being developed with consideration to your concerns and with the use of several reopening school guidance documents including those provided by the American Academy of Pediatrics and the state of Ohio. Links to those guidance documents are available on our school website at www.fairfieldchristianacademy.org under Information>Coronavirus Reopening Plan. FCA's reopening plan will include smaller cohort groups, social distancing, decreased crossing of student groups, highly increased cleaning measures and a variety of other precautions.

These are especially unique and challenging times. We ask that you join us in seeking the Lord's guidance as we prepare to return to the classroom for it is only in Him that perfect truth and wisdom can be revealed. Although the ties of our FCA community have remained strong during our time apart, we are very thankful that we will once again be reunited in the building soon.

We can't wait to see you in August!

Craig Carpenter, Superintendent
Laura Putinski, Assistant Superintendent