

A MESSAGE FROM THE  
**HEAD OF SCHOOL**



Dear FCS Families,

I want to thank you again for your partnership, patience, and support over these past weeks. When we transitioned to E-Learning on March 18th, our hope was to return before Easter Break. Subsequent developments led us to extend that timeline through May 1st and now the most recent directives from The President's Coronavirus Task Force and Governor Newsom, as well as other state & local officials, compel us to further **extend our E-Learning date through at least Friday, May 15th.**

While we continue to hold out hope that we may be able to return for end of year activities, this is still uncertain. **The guidelines from the White House's Coronavirus Task Force recommend all K-12 school closures remain in place until Phase Two of the transition plan and moving to Phase Two is based on meeting the plan's gating criteria for four consecutive weeks.** We'll continue to monitor developments and remain flexible in our decision making. We'll also continue to communicate with you on a regular basis.

**Here is the link to the White House's "Opening Up America Again" Guidelines:**

<https://apps.npr.org/documents/document.html?id=6840714-Guidelines>

Originally, our last day of school was scheduled for June 8th with graduation on the morning of June 9th. We have additional news about graduation below, along with some other updates. Thank you for taking the time to read through this information.

### **Parent Survey**

In the next few days, we'll be sending brief online surveys to all families. We appreciate your feedback on our school's performance since March as well as plans for moving forward. We'll have one survey for Preschool and a second survey for K-8 as guidelines from the state are different for preschool and school-age children. Our Preschool Survey will go out on Friday while our K-8 Survey will be sent on Monday. Thank you for taking the time to complete the survey(s).

### **Plans for Resumption of Onsite Instruction**

Regardless of when we're able to resume onsite instruction, the school will plan for a transition that will protect the health of students & staff members by complying with recommendations from the state and county. Transitional steps will include:

- Plans for social distancing

- Utilization of face coverings
- Frequent sanitizing and cleaning of classrooms
- Evaluation and modification of instructional spaces
- Modification or suspension of large group activities
- Limiting of school visitors, especially in classrooms
- Strict adherence to FCS illness policies and ongoing public health directives

The US State Department's Global Level 4 Health Advisory remains in effect and advises citizens to AVOID ALL INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL. FCS will abide by the CDC's current recommendation and WILL REQUIRE the following as long as the advisory remains in place:

- Anyone returning from international travel will need to self-quarantine for 14 days before being allowed on any of our campuses.
- All members of a household (including students) with a member who has traveled internationally will also need to complete a 14 day self-quarantine before returning to any campus.
- All members of a household (including students) coming into close or sustained contact with someone who has traveled internationally will also need to complete a 14 day self-quarantine before returning to any campus.
- At the conclusion of the self-quarantine, FCS will require a doctor's note confirming the health of the student and/or individual before he or she returns to any campus.
- Individuals should also avoid travel to domestic locations with elevated numbers of cases and/or ongoing stay-at-home orders. Travel (especially air travel) to such areas will result in a requirement for self-quarantine prior to returning to any school campus.
- Failure to abide by the above guidelines may result in exclusion from the school.

Additional steps may also be taken to align with public health recommendations. Our priority will remain the safe resumption of normal operations as soon as possible while taking necessary steps to protect our school community's physical health by mitigating the risk of infection.

### **Tuition and School Financial Status**

From the time suspension of onsite learning was imminent, the school made a commitment to retain our staff. This decision was made for two reasons. First, we wanted to make every effort to care for our 160 employees and to make sure that compensation and medical benefits would continue. Second, full access to federal funds through the various stimulus plans was based on maintaining our staff.

The strategy we adopted was the correct one for FCS. On April 10th, we were approved for a Payroll Protection Loan and **our loan was funded on April 20th**. In addition, due to the fact that the school retained all staff members, **the principal on this loan is 100% forgivable**. This will allow us to finish the current year in good financial shape and retain cash reserves for summer expenses as well as start up costs for the fall.

In April, we were able to offer a 20% "third child discount" to any family in need. As we'll now be extending E-Learning through at least May 15th, we are offering this discount for May (and June if E-Learning extends to the end of the year). This discount reduces tuition for first and second children to the third child discount level. Families who already requested this discount for April will receive it automatically for May. **Families requiring additional financial assistance should apply through [www.factstuitionaid.com](http://www.factstuitionaid.com).**

You've seen our commitment to student learning and we will continue to provide quality instruction and lessons through E-Learning for as long as is necessary. We will provide an additional update by mid-May.

## **Graduation**

As stated above, our original graduation date is June 9th. We want this to be a special day for all graduating students and we realize holding to this date will require a modified program (i.e., social distancing, limited numbers, consideration for older attendees) if we're able to hold it at all.

We're exploring two means of honoring our graduates. First, we have some ideas for a less formal (and restriction-friendly) means to celebrate our 8th graders. We're working on details and will have an announcement shortly.

Second, we still hope to host a full graduation ceremony and we have decided to plan for an 8th grade graduation ceremony on Tuesday, August 4th. We have secured the Friends Church Worship Center and we are planning to honor our students and families (immediate and extended) on this day. Watch for more information in the coming weeks.

We are also exploring options for END OF YEAR AWARDS, honoring all students either virtually or in small groups with plenty of social distancing. Again, please watch for more information.

## **Aladdin**

Mrs. Brinnon and her cast are working with some special helpers to produce a Virtual Theater Production of Aladdin! We are looking forward to experiencing (sorry) A Whole New World online and sharing this with our full community. All kidding aside, Jolie and her team have brought their creativity together to give our theater students an opportunity to shine. Stay tuned for more information.

## **Sacramento and 6th Grade Science Camp**

We're working with WorldStrides and camp officials to schedule fall dates. We'll move forward with both trips when and if it's safe and feasible to do so.

## **EFW Fun With My Teacher/Teacher for the Day**

We'll plan to host activities and Teacher for the Day when we return in the fall. We'll make sure students get their experiences when we're able to be back together again.

## **Summer Blast**

It is still too early to make a final decision about this year's Summer Blast. The next few weeks should provide additional clarity about our ability to offer a summer program. We will have an update on Blast by May 22nd. If the program is canceled, we will provide families still enrolled at that time with a full refund.

## **LFPS Summer School**

As with Summer Blast, our leadership team is evaluating options for our summer preschool program. We will have an update regarding summer preschool soon.

Thank you again for your support and partnership. We pray we're able to be together again soon.