

Saturday, March 14

12:30pm CDT

FWC Community,

Our team met twice yesterday, including a lengthy call last night, to outline plans, expectations, and objectives for continuing to deliver excellent Christ-centered, college preparatory education.

On this past Thursday night, our communication indicated that we would not return to school until March 23rd. **However, based on input from a variety of sources, our Leadership Team and our COVID-19 Task Force have decided at this time it is in the best interest of everyone for us to not reconvene in-person instruction on our campus until at least Monday, March 30; however, like most other schools throughout the U.S., we will begin our virtual learning initiatives on Wednesday, March 18th.**

As you may have already heard, TAPPS also recently notified all member schools that they are suspending all interscholastic practice and competition at least through April 12, 2020. [Read the full statement on the TAPPS website.](#) Our Athletic Directors have already been in communication with coaches about how to encourage student-athletes to maintain peak performance when they are not allowed to practice together or come to the campus for weight training or any other gathering. Our ADs will also be advising our Middle and Lower School students and their parents on the best ways to keep active while learning from home. Coach Hudgins and Coach Smeds are excited about sharing with your students how they can be the best Cardinal they can be to honor God and stay healthy.

On Monday and Tuesday of this coming week, our faculty will convene for continued training on facilitating student learning consistent with our academic objectives using online platforms and digital tools. Beginning Wednesday, March 18, all FWC students will begin virtual learning initiatives to continue meeting course objectives as we begin this final 9 weeks of the school year. Based on our online program and conversations with our accreditation associations and recent decisions made by the U.S. Department of Education and the Texas Education Association, we do NOT anticipate requiring additional days in May or June.

One of our Core Values at FWC is “Always Learning & Growing” - this unusual season is a perfect example where we can demonstrate that learning can continue and we can grow together, even in the midst of a crisis. I have already been impressed with the conversations our Division Heads, administrators, and faculty are having about the innovative ways they are planning to offer online instruction to your children. I have always said Fort Worth Christian possesses some of the best faculty I have ever had the honor to work within my 30-year career in independent school education. I am confident that they will meet this unprecedented

challenge by keeping your child's learning on pace with our objectives for the rest of the 2019-20 school year.

Early next week, you will receive an email from your Division Head(s) with specifics on our online teaching, learning, and assessment processes. Additionally, for those who need to, details will be provided on how and when students can come to campus for a limited time on Tuesday to collect books/materials that they may need from their lockers or classrooms. It will be important to follow these instructions as we do not want large groups of students and parents on campus at the same time.

To reiterate in the simplest way I can, while some staff is allowed, neither parents nor students should be on campus unless directed by the administration (i.e., to pick up materials, to have a parent-teacher meeting, etc.). All other interactions will be facilitated electronically. We continue to ask for grace and patience as we navigate this unprecedented time in our school and country's history. However, we also invite you to engage with us, to help us, and to challenge us as we innovate and deliver our Fort Worth Christian education. To serve you and your family as well as we possibly can during this crisis, we will offer online services from our Cardinal Learning Center, counselors, and health-care personnel; details of these services will be forthcoming this next week as well.

I will close with this challenge: while the Coronavirus crisis strikes fear in the hearts of many, I urge you, by the power of God's Spirit, to be a voice of peace and to be selfless. Many throughout our country have been quick to criticize decisions and decision-makers and even joke about the crisis, but I urge us all to be a reflection of Christ to the many affected by COVID-19. Many around the world have lost loved ones. As well, there are many vulnerable individuals who can succumb quickly to such a virus (those with weakened immune systems, the very young, and certainly the elderly). And many in our parent community are already experiencing the economic challenges associated with this pandemic. When the world defaults to criticizing leaders, I beg you to pray for us and pray earnestly for our county, state, and national leaders. When others hoard material goods or even want to guard creative and innovative solutions, may all of us at FWC be generous, selfless, and always eager to help someone in need.

In August, our Class of 2020 met and determined the theme verse for this academic year. It comes from Philippians 2:3-4 where the Apostle Paul is encouraging the church to be unified in loving one another and working together with one mind and purpose.

"Don't be selfish; don't try to impress others. Be humble, thinking of others as better than yourselves. Don't look out only for your own interests, but take an interest in others, too."

As we continue forward, we do so not with fear, but with complete faith in the sovereignty of a loving God who is in control. Let us rest peacefully in the King of Kings who calms every storm and who looks to the interests of others.

Godspeed as we seek to have the same attitude of that of Christ Jesus.

Ken Cheeseman

Head of School