



Dear Falcon Families,

March 23, 2020

My hope and prayer is that this latest update finds you all well! Our lives have most certainly changed over the past 2 weeks, and some of the changes have been surprisingly more difficult than others. In particular, the social isolation that our students have felt has been much more significant than we expected. As we moved into our new methods of instruction last week, we discovered the significance of the relationships, the *phileo* love, between our students and between our students and their teachers. They were overjoyed to see one another, even if only virtually, and were excited for a way of connecting that was more personal than just online chat or a phone call. Some of our students got online a day early because they missed their friends and teachers, while others are staying online in between classes to talk and play games! We are thrilled with the level of participation and interaction we have seen so far!

We've also discovered how to troubleshoot glitches with our video-conferencing systems and a few things about communicating and setting assignments. We realized we needed to have a standard for when and how we assign work for our students when we heard from families that this was not working well. Going forward, teachers will be using Google Classroom for assignments. They will not follow up with emails about the assignments in order to be considerate of the number of emails you receive. In addition, assignments will be posted no later than 4pm on weekdays, and no assignments will be posted on Saturday or Sunday to ensure that you and your child know when to check their Google Classroom.

As we continue into our first full week of online, interactive instruction I am certain that we will discover more challenges. Please let your Division Leads and me know what is working and what is not working so that we can address any issues as soon as possible. If you do not already have my email, it is susan.blumenthal@ufca.org. Please be patient with us as we continue to roll this out and discover what we do not yet know!

Information You Need to Know

- Electives and non-core classes are just getting started this week (for the most part). You should have received information on them including whether or not they will be meeting online. In some cases, electives will not meet online due to either the class format or the students' developmental level. In those cases, teachers will be providing assignments or projects for students to complete as appropriate.
- Attendance is taken each day that classes meet online, and this counts the same as if we were physically meeting on campus. If your student is unable to be online during class time, please be certain they check in with the teacher and then watch the recorded class to make up that absence.
- The UFCA Office remains open on Tuesday and Thursday mornings from 9am-12pm, and Admissions tours still occur on Tuesday mornings for as long as we are allowed to do so. We do expect that this may change sometime this week, though.
- We have a large number of students who have not picked up their textbooks or personal belongings! Please come by and pick them up during Office hours. We have processes in place to practice social distancing during the pickup process so it remains a safe environment for all of us.
- Enrollment and re-enrollment remain available online, and each of us in Administration and the Office and Business Office remain available via telephone or email throughout this time should you have any questions or concerns.

- **At this time, we believe that it is prudent to extend our distance learning and keep the UFCA campus closed through at least Friday, April 3, 2020. We will be evaluating Governor Cooper's public school announcement from today and will keep you informed well in advance regarding extensions beyond this date.**
- **We intend to still have Spring Break at the scheduled time.** Join with me in praying God removes this by then and we can at least see friends and family even if we cannot travel!

We encourage you to continue to follow credible resources for ongoing information on the global COVID-19 pandemic through agencies such as the [World Health Organization](#), the [CDC](#), the [U.S. Department of Health and Human Services](#), and state and local health departments.

Please continue to let us know through the use of our Travel Update Form (click [here](#)) if you travel.

Likewise, if a healthcare provider or any health agency recommends self-quarantine or hospitalization for any member of your family during this time, please continue to immediately inform Mireidy Carthen at mireidy.carthen@ufca.org.

Ongoing Information

We will keep you updated through email, the UFCA website, UFCA App, social media, and eNews as more information becomes available or the situation changes. If you have not yet downloaded the UFCA app, we encourage you to do so now as information is available much sooner on the app than through the other methods.

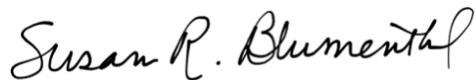
Later this week we will be sharing some ideas to assist you with passing the time at home and with our new normal. Be on the lookout for that email!

My hope and prayer is that we all remain well by taking the proper precautions to help end this pandemic (Romans 13:1). Knowing that God remains on the throne of heaven and in control, we can rest in the peace that we are His and are covered by His love and the sacrifice of Jesus Christ. "Do not be afraid, nor be dismayed; be strong and of good courage, for thus the Lord will do to all your enemies against whom you fight." Joshua 10:25 NKJV

As we are assured that God remains in control, we continue to plan our actions out of wisdom and not fear.

Please continue to join with me in prayer for those who have been directly and indirectly affected, and that God will quickly remove this virus!

Blessings,



Susan R. Blumenthal, PhD, Head of School

"For this reason I remind you to fan into flame the gift of God, which is in you..., for God gave us a spirit not of fear but of power and love and self-control" 2 Timothy 1:6-7 ESV