



Dear Falcon Families,

March 15, 2020

In light of the unprecedented events attributable to the global COVID-19 pandemic, and in consideration of the safety and health of our students and their families, faculty and staff and their families, and of the greater Charlotte community, the UFCA Board and I believe that, even though we are exempt from the Executive Order of March 14, 2020, from NC Gov. Roy Cooper, it is time for United Faith Christian Academy to close school temporarily. UFCA will be closed effective immediately through March 27, 2020. As we approach the end of March, we will re-evaluate the conditions and determine whether or not it is appropriate to re-open school on March 30, 2020, or if we need to continue to remain closed.

Our goal at this time is to continue providing education to all of our students as appropriate to their developmental level. We will be accomplishing this through distance learning based on the virtual platforms provided by Google Classroom and Google Hangouts as well as more traditional methods. Teachers will provide instructional materials and assignments for the next 3 days and you will receive details on the virtual platforms and other modalities by Wednesday.

The goal of utilizing these methods is not to replicate the school day but to continue to provide meaningful learning to our students. As such, actual instructional time will be less than during the traditional school day. We will be using a collegiate model of 2-3 classes per week per subject in Upper School, while Lower School, Preschool and Electives are still determining the rate and methods of instruction that will be most appropriate. Teachers will be receiving training and support on the use of the virtual platforms as we had previously planned and will be adapting their lesson plans to this new environment. We ask that you are patient with us as we work through implementing these new processes in order to provide our students with the best possible education under the circumstances.

It is imperative that both students and parents take this instructional time seriously, as assignments and assessments will be graded. These grades have the potential to impact graduation or promotion to the next grade level.

During this time we will be allowing all Upper School students to take their school-assigned laptops home in order to facilitate their ongoing learning. This includes Middle School students. If you do not wish your student to take home their school-assigned laptop, please email your student's Division Lead by Monday morning.

With the extended time at home with laptops, we want to remind parents that their contracts for the use of the laptops requires that parents are responsible for any damage to the laptops in their students' possession. Damaged laptops are to be returned to the school for repair, however it is unlikely that we will be able to provide a loaner device during this time. In addition, the firewall and restrictions that are present at UFCA may not be present for the students at home. Our policies regarding acceptable use of the laptops and the Code of Conduct will continue to be enforced. Misuse of the laptops at any time, including during this event, will result in the appropriate consequences for that behavior.

We will be providing drive-through pickup for students who have left items on campus or need to pick up their laptops, books or assignments. This will occur from 2:45-3:15pm on Monday and 8:30-9:00am on Tuesday. If there are specific items that a teacher may not know that you need to pick up, please contact either your student's classroom teacher or Division Lead.

We will continue to monitor our main telephone line and be accessible by email throughout this time should you have any questions. As we develop these processes over the following 2-3 days, we will provide you with additional information.

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.

## **Travel Updates**

Please continue to keep us informed of future or past travel as described in our previous letter through the use of our Travel Update Form (click [here](#)). This includes any student or family member, or employees and family members who have traveled in the past 14 days or who have plans to travel internationally, by air or other means, on a cruise ship or who may be traveling to specific locations within the United States where COVID-19 is prevalent (for example, Seattle, WA or Westchester, NY). All members of the family who live with someone who has traveled to or through a level 2 or 3 country must self-quarantine from the school and members of the school community for a minimum of 14 days, and follow all CDC and Department of Health guidelines.

If a healthcare provider or any health agency recommends self-quarantine for any member of your family during this time, please continue to inform Mireidy Carthen at [mireidy.carthen@ufca.org](mailto:mireidy.carthen@ufca.org) immediately.

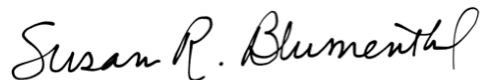
## **Ongoing Information**

We will continue to keep you updated through our usual methods - email, UFCA website, UFCA App social media and eNews - as more information becomes available or the situation changes.

We know that God is in control and we do not plan our actions out of fear but out of wisdom.

Please continue to join with me in prayer over this ongoing situation, praying for those who have been directly affected by this virus, those of us who are being indirectly affected, and that the containment processes we are all putting into place will be effective.

Blessings,



Susan R. Blumenthal, Head of School

Joshua 10:25  
New King James Version