



Dear Falcon Families,

March 18, 2020

My hope and prayer is that you're all well and safe and taking the proper precautions to help end this pandemic. While we may have additional restrictions coming as our leaders work to help contain the virus, we need to remind ourselves that our God is not surprised by this nor is He fearful, anxious, or unable to work in and through these events to build His kingdom and bring glory to Himself! Knowing that He 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.

One of the exciting things for us this week as a United Faith family is the Professional Development that our teachers have enthusiastically undertaken to prepare for a monumental paradigm shift in their teaching. This shift will move us from teaching face-to-face to teaching in an interactive, online environment where students will be responsible for more of their own learning and teachers will become more facilitators of that learning. The degree to which this shift will happen will vary in a way that is developmentally appropriate, but you will see differences! Please be patient with us as we roll this out and discover what we do not yet know!

After working with various video-conferencing systems this week, all but one of our teachers has chosen to use Zoom instead of Google Hangouts.

Teachers will be sending information today on how to access their Google and interactive classrooms, as well as the specific schedule for their classes if you have not already received that information for many or all of your child's classes. Classes will be shorter than the length of a normal class period, so Upper School students will only need to be online for the duration of each class. We expect that this will range from 20-30 minutes per class, and our classes are scheduled one hour apart throughout the day.

Over the next 2 days, Thursday and Friday, we will begin most of our interactive distance learning, although Lower School students have been so excited about this that they were on with their teachers this morning! Please pay attention to the information from each of your teachers, as some Thursday classes may not begin until next week.

For Upper School, you will see Core Classes on Monday, Wednesday and Friday, and Electives or Non-Core Classes on either Tuesday or Thursday. Bible and Foreign Language will meet 2 times per week on Monday, Wednesday or Friday. You will receive the specifics regarding this from your teachers if you have not already.

For Lower School, each teacher is setting up Office Hours and Zoom classroom hours. You will receive the specifics regarding this from your teachers if you have not already.

Preschool will continue with the work that was sent home as well as shared videos and stories.

Our goal over the next 2 days is to ensure that each of our students is able to connect to their Zoom classroom(s) and that they are able to access their Google Classroom(s). For those who have not been using Google Classroom, this is accessible at any time of the day for viewing assignments and rubrics, checking to make sure that assignments have been submitted, and communicating with the teacher(s). We will also be setting standards for participation and attendance that will be the same expectation that we have for traditional school each day. Students are expected to be present for each interactive session each day; however, we understand that there will be times that this may not be possible for a variety of reasons. We will be addressing this by recording our Zoom classroom sessions so that students can view or review them at a later time. It is our goal that recordings of interactive sessions will be posted on Google Classroom for later review. Please be patient with us as we work through that process!

Please note that it is far preferable for students to be present for the interactive sessions. This recording should be reserved for review and not initial viewing as much as possible. Students who are chronically absent from interactive sessions without a justifiable reason and who do not view the session at a later time will receive unexcused absences from those classes.

The UFCA Office will remain open on Tuesday and Thursday mornings from 9am-12pm for as long as we are allowed to do so. Admissions tours will still be occurring on Tuesday mornings and enrollment and re-enrollment remain available. Our Business Office is also accessible via telephone or email. We will continue to monitor our main telephone line and be accessible by email throughout this time should you have any questions or concerns.

If you have not yet picked up your students' belongings – including personal items, lunchboxes, etc., as well as textbooks and notebooks, these can be picked up at the office during our adjusted Office Hours.

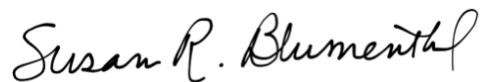
We encourage you to continue to follow credible resources for ongoing information on the global COVID-19 pandemic through agencies such as the [World Health Organization](#), the [CDC](#), the [U.S. Department of Health and Human Services](#), and state and local health departments, as well as letting 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 for any member of your family during this time, please continue to inform Mireidy Carthen at 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. If you have not yet downloaded the UFCA app we encourage you to do so now as information is sent out on the app much more quickly than through email.

As we are assured that God remains in control, 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 continuing to implement will be effective.

Blessings,



Susan R. Blumenthal, PhD, Head of School

"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