



Dear Falcon Families,

July 7, 2020

Summer is well under way and I pray that you are all enjoying the long daylight hours as you remain healthy and in good relationship with our Heavenly Father!

We have been continuing to keep busy in the UFCA Office making plans and preparations for the beginning of school in August.

As before, we are still planning to open United Faith on schedule on August 17, 2020, with Orientation on August 14, 2020.

A few items which are important in this regard:

- Our United Faith Reopening Advisory Group has been hard at work in early morning meetings to develop a plan to return to school in just over a month!
- Our goal is to have our students physically present in school so long as we are able to address the health and safety needs of our students and staff.
 - Please keep in mind that there is no situation where any school will be able to completely eliminate all risk.
 - However our goal is to mitigate all known risks to the point where all risks are minimized as much as possible.
 - Any incidences of COVID-19 that might occur at United Faith will be promptly relayed to all parents.
- As we have learned more about the SARS-CoV-2 virus that has created this pandemic we have learned that:
 - Adolescents and children tend to be asymptomatic.
 - Adolescents and children are less likely than adults to become infected, to spread the virus or to develop severe disease.
 - Household studies where a household member has been infected have shown that if the recommended practices are put into place (staying 6 feet apart, wearing face coverings and practicing good hand hygiene), no transmission has occurred to other family members.
 - This has led the American Academy of Pediatrics and similar groups to determine that all school-related policy considerations should begin with the premise of students being physically present in school due to the negative effects of being out of school on social and emotional development and on mental health (not even considering the academic challenges).
 - This same data is the reason the Centers for Disease Control never recommended school closure.
- It is also important to note that we are in communication with local and national health leaders including the Mecklenburg County Health Department and are constantly reviewing the data for the Greater Charlotte region in order to make the most informed decisions.
 - As new data comes in, our guidelines and plan will adjust accordingly.
- While the plan has not yet been finalized, it does have many levels which will allow us to have a flexible and nimble response to changing conditions.

The broad plan under the current conditions includes:

- Following the current face mask, social distancing and group size restrictions to be in alignment with the state of North Carolina requirements for non-public education.
 - Under current guidelines:
 - Parents will provide masks for their children to bring to school each day.
 - These may be:
 - Cloth face coverings – at least 2 layers thick and preferably a tightly woven cotton or similar fabric
 - Surgical masks
 - N95 or better masks
 - Staff and Upper School students (6th-12th) will be required to wear masks.
 - Lower School students will be strongly encouraged to wear masks.
 - We are still poring over the best guidance for our Preschool students.
 - All classes will be socially distanced.
 - Hand Hygiene will be stressed throughout the day for all Staff and Students, with frequent handwashing and use of hand sanitizer.
 - Students will be maintained within limited cohorts throughout the day.
 - Preschool
 - Students will stay together and in their rooms for most activities.
 - Classes will be encouraged to meet in outdoor spaces as frequently as possible.
 - Specials for Preschool will primarily be in the students' primary classroom with the exception of PE and Music which will be outside or in the Gym and in the Sanctuary, respectively. This allows the children to be spaced apart and have a much larger room which will allow the virus to dissipate.
 - Recess will continue to be outside as much as possible.
 - Students will be required to use their own supplies and equipment without sharing.
 - Chapel and Assemblies will be held outside whenever possible and in alignment with the state of North Carolina requirements for non-public education.
 - If they cannot be held outside, they will be in the Gym or Sanctuary or Sanctuary Lobby or Classroom in alignment with the state of North Carolina requirements for non-public education at the time.
 - Lower School
 - Students will stay together and in their rooms for most activities.
 - Classes will be encouraged to meet in outdoor spaces as frequently as possible.
 - Specials for Lower School will primarily be in the students' primary classroom with the exception of PE and Music which will be outside or in the Gym and in the Sanctuary, respectively. This allows the children to be spaced apart and have a much larger room which will allow the virus to dissipate.
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 - Upper School
 - Students will stay together and have limited room changes during the day.
 - Classes will be encouraged to meet in outdoor spaces as frequently as possible.
 - Room change and locker time will be staggered by grade/class.
 - Students will travel to electives.

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- Wellness Monitoring
 - Use of a daily wellness app to confirm the safety of Staff coming to school or of sending a Student to school each day.
 - The app must be completed before leaving home each morning and a report will be generated before students/staff arrive at school.
 - A green light will mean it is safe for the student or staff member to go to school that day.
 - A red light will mean that the Staff or Student must stay home.
 - Morning temperature checks upon arrival in carline or at Before School Care.
 - An elevated temperature above current guidelines at the time will require the student to return home.
- Lunch
 - Preschool
 - Students will preorder a hot lunch or bring their own lunch from home.
 - Lunches will be delivered to the classroom.
 - Lower School
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 - Lunches will be delivered to the classroom.
 - Upper School
 - Students will order a hot lunch or bring their own lunch from home.
 - Hot Lunches will be picked up in the cafeteria by class.
 - Use of the Cafeteria will be dependent on group size and current guidelines.
- Water fountains will be turned off to avoid cross contamination between students.
 - Students will be allowed to refill water bottles.
- We are still working on the specifics of Facility Cleaning and Sanitization with the guidance of the Mecklenburg County Health Department and others.
 - Cleaning / Sanitization will increase above standard levels just as it had prior to school closure.
 - Bathroom touchpoints will be cleaned multiple times per day as will doors and railings.
 - Classroom surfaces will be cleaned daily.
- We are also working on options for remote learning for those who have medical concerns or who have had an exposure or potential exposure and may not be able to be physically present in the classroom.

Important Information You Need to Know

While the big questions for everyone have been regarding how United Faith will reopen, there are some important updates and ongoing activities that you need to know!

Lower School Dress Code Has Changed!

Lower School (Kindergarten through 5th grade) will no longer be required to wear Lands End uniforms. Dress code for Lower School will now be the same as for Upper School, although students will still be permitted to wear Lands End uniforms that they may have that are in good repair and still fit!

- Please refer to my previous email for Lower School Dress Code details
- UFCA Spirit Wear tops may only be ordered from: [UFCA Spirit Wear - BSN Sports](#) (also found under Parent Resources on the UFCA website).

Staff Changes – We have had a few changes in Staff for next year!

- Mrs. Tonya Bronson is leaving Admissions to move into the position of Director of College Guidance.
- Mrs. Erin Martin is leaving United Faith after 3 years with us to start her own business.
- Mrs. Mireidy Carthen will be moving into the position of Director of Admissions. You will still see her at the Front Desk in the mornings and afternoons, though!
- Mr. Brennan Benfield is leaving United Faith to attend Graduate School in Hawaii.

- Mr. John Smith will be moving into the primary HS Science position. Mr. Smith has been teaching in Charlotte-Mecklenburg and Union County Schools and has a wealth of medical research experience.
- Mr. Stewart Esters will not be returning to United Faith.
- Mr. Tyshaun Wynter will be moving into the HS English and History departments. Mr. Wynter, who earned his degree at MIT, has many years of experience teaching, including at The Princeton Review, and has been substitute teaching for us for the last year, so you may recognize him!
- Mr. Patrick Lester will not be returning to United Faith.
- Mr. Stephen Hoff will be moving into the MS History position and will also be teaching AP Human Geography. Mr. Hoff comes to us from Charlotte Christian where he has been the Head of the Social Studies department. He also has a wealth of experience as a swim coach and we hope he will be taking that on as well!
- Mrs. Mandi Roman will not be returning to United Faith as she starts her family.
- Mrs. Rachel Cerdeiras will not be returning to United Faith as she starts her family.
- Mrs. Shannon Chapa will be moving into the 3rd grade position. Mrs. Chapa comes to us from NY and Connecticut, where she has taught Lower School in the classical tradition for many years.
- Mr. Edgar Horton will not be returning to United Faith as he moves into a full-time position.
 - We are still interviewing for Mr. Horton's position.

Ongoing Activities

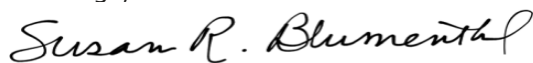
- The Main Office continues to be open Tuesday-Thursday from 8:30am-3:00pm throughout the summer.
 - Please continue to use email or reach out to us by telephone, leaving a voicemail at 704-541-1742 extension 200, should you need to contact us.
- At this time, the Campus (outside of the Main Office) remains closed to all other persons including families and visitors.
 - As Governor Cooper updates the Phase of restrictions for the state later this month, we will keep you informed of how that affects campus activities.
- All other events and activities, including Gym Workouts, Sports Camps, and the Summer Day Camps remain postponed or cancelled.
 - Coaches will be reaching out to students once we are cleared to allow practice.
 - We will not be holding Summer Day Camp this year due to the ongoing restrictions.

Needs

- As you may know, hand sanitizer and disinfecting wipes are difficult to acquire during this time and we are uncertain that we will be able to purchase sufficient amounts.
 - For this reason, we ask that parents each provide:
 - 2 or more large bottles of hand sanitizer (60% alcohol or higher; 16oz. or larger)
 - 2 or more large disinfecting wipes containers (Lysol, Clorox, etc.)
 - This will help us to ensure that every classroom has sufficient hand sanitizer and disinfecting wipes in time when we return students to the classroom!
- We have unplanned expenses to modify spaces on campus, modify travel plans for our Athletes, and provide technology for Wellness Monitoring and remote learning for those who need it.
 - We will be making you aware of these needs as we determine the specifications and, if you are able, we would love to have your support for these needs!

Above all else, I pray that each of you has had the opportunity to deepen your relationship with Jesus during this time, knowing the end of the story is already determined in victory for those who love Him! Please continue to join with me in prayer for a rapid resolution to this pandemic!

Blessings,



Susan R. Blumenthal, PhD, Head of School

"Fear not, for I am with you; be not dismayed, for I am your God; I will strengthen you, I will uphold you with my righteous right hand." Isaiah 41:10 ESV