



The ACADEMY of Classical Christian Studies

Dear Families,

With every prayer, friends.

Though we want the spirit of C.S. Lewis to pervade our every moment in this life lived, we also want to be prudent with the lives of these little ones as we face something of an unknown this week. Lewis is writing in a time of uncertainty but his thoughts apply all the same. May we be found:

...doing sensible and human things—praying, working, teaching, reading, listening to music, bathing the children, playing tennis, chatting to our friends over a pint and a game of darts—not huddled together like frightened sheep... [Things] may break our bodies (a microbe can do that) but they need not dominate our minds.

Having that quote as a healthy reminder of a certain mindset through it all, we nevertheless want to acknowledge our shared responsibility to prevent the spread of COVID-19 in our community and to plan accordingly. We also recognize the likelihood that there will be requirements and expectations laid at our feet by local health authorities and governing bodies.

To that end, let me offer a few comments (and ask your prayers over each one):

1. We have every expectation of having to temporarily close our campuses to students in the coming weeks and move to online instruction for our students in the interim. We have yet to determine when this will happen but expect that the careful monitoring that we are applying each day will make it abundantly evident in the very near future. But let me be clear: ***school will continue for students at The Academy.*** We do not pretend for a moment that the solutions that we propose and work through will be altogether easy, and we are only too aware of the potential burdens that this outbreak will place upon all of us. It is our intention to deliver the mission as best as we can in a coherent, achievable, and grace-filled way. We beg your patience and understanding as we work through the inevitable kinks and promise to have our principals and teachers on full stand-by to create as dynamic an experience as we can for each of our beloved students. It is our aspiration and expectation that each student stay on track to graduate from their respective grade! May God's grace go before us.
2. Our principals and chairs have already begun a full review of our curriculum, so that we can be a help and a guide to each of our teachers in choosing those topics which are most crucial to your students' educational experiences. The Academy will provide guidelines and aids in separate emails if and when we embark. Additionally, our Assistant Headmaster, Stephen

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Taylor, will work with our teachers and IT department to select the best tools for online instruction and develop training to equip both teachers and parents. We are only too happy to honor our parents in delivering the very best instruction and support that we can achieve during the challenging weeks ahead.

3. We are well aware that the compelling nature of The Academy is due to its beloved teaching staff. As rewarding as our curriculum is, the magic comes from those who deliver it. We are hoping to find that happy medium between our prized, teacher-led classes on one hand, with some kind of system that keeps us in lock-step one with another. We ask your commitment to keeping open lines of communication with your principals and teachers to maintain our educational integrity during this time. Having said that, we know that issues will present themselves along the way, and we will together handle these times with absolute grace and solution-mindedness. We once again ask your patience as we achieve the impossible together.
4. At the same time, The Academy has been enabling home-based instruction since 2004. We are confident that, partnering together, we can continue to provide an exceptional education experience during these uncertain times. For the traditional families unfamiliar with the blended experience, we look forward to working with you and providing assistance in navigating this unfamiliar terrain.
5. Finally, in an effort to avoid having your child as The Academy Patient Zero, we ask that you exercise the very highest standards of self-reporting your own exposure and travels so long as campus-based classes are in session. All travel, at this point, risks greater amounts of exposure, and we ask that you self-impose the kinds of quarantines that health officials are now recommending. The 14-day incubation period is the standard of quarantine that we have obviously adopted, and we ask that you comply with this in an effort to exercise the kind of 'love of neighbor' that our school is known for (because of you!).

May God bless each of you. We promise to delineate more details as they are made available to us, and we will provide our next update no later than March 20th. Grading, tracking, curriculum delivery, video conferencing, and all the rest will need some measure of standardization, and we are working, as earlier noted, to create something that is coherent, achievable, and grace-filled. We again ask your prayers, patience, and joy.

May we be found doing 'sensible and human things',

Nate+

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