

# 2020 - 21 STEPS TO SUCCESS

*A Guide To Royally Reopening The First Academy*



VOLUME 1 OF 3

# RETURNING SAFELY TO CAMPUS

## *Our Christ - Centered Educational Experience*

I can't wait to welcome our school family back to campus. We are working every day to make sure the experience is one that prioritizes the safety and well-being of all parties while restoring the personal connection between teachers, coaches, leaders, and students that makes this "house a home."

As we prepare to begin class on August 12, we have surrounded ourselves with experts and key stakeholders who are guiding the campus reopening. Their good work reminds us that reopening the campus is not an event but a process.

Together we will provide answers to questions about what classes and other campus interactions might look like for next year. We will communicate with you about enhanced cleaning, classroom procedures, campus security, and health and wellness implementations. We will be proactive in anticipating and meeting the needs of our students, faculty, and staff each step of the way.

We will continue to communicate frequently throughout the summer. I will be providing a Weekly Update, and we are introducing this publication that will have three volumes over the course of the next six weeks. We also launched the [Royal Reopening Portal](#) on our website, which will house this packet, as well as all pertinent reopening information. Additionally, the portal will host all Back to School information such as supply lists, etc. for the 2020 - 21 school year.

Finally, I remain confident that our God who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above what we ask (Ephesians 3:20). I believe next year is going to be our best ever. If you have any questions, concerns, or comments, please feel free to send me an email at [stevewhitaker@thefirstacademy.org](mailto:stevewhitaker@thefirstacademy.org). We can find a time to talk and walk through any worries you may have. Thank you for the opportunity to serve your family.



Steve D. Whitaker, Ph.D.  
Head of School

# PRINCIPLES FOR REOPENING CAMPUS

## *And First Days of School*

### Principles for Reopening

- Protect the health and safety of students and faculty/staff
- Be compliant with state government recommendations
- Utilize guidelines from the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) and Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS)
- Establish effective use of spaces and places to support physical distancing
- Provide students with some familiarity of school routines for learning
- Set clear expectations for all

### First Days of School

Our teams are preparing for students to return to campus on **August 12, 2020** for the first day of school. As we move forward in planning and preparation, we will closely monitor and follow the guidelines and recommendations as they are released by the government, CDC, and DHHS.

We anticipate ending the school year as planned on Wednesday, May 26, 2021.

While our priority is to be on campus as much as possible, we are also preparing for potential interruptions and may need to adjust the calendar accordingly. As always, we will communicate with you and provide families with more information when and if needed.

# STRATEGIC ADVISORS

## Reopening Task Force & Medical Advisory Committee

The **First Academy** has established a **Reopening Task Force** and **Medical Advisory Committee** that will devote their full attention to addressing any potential issues as well as providing recommendations for the process of re-opening our campus for the arrival of our students.

The **Reopening Task Force** and **Medical Advisory Committee** has been charged to consider multiple options with respect to federal and/or state mandated restrictions that may likely be in place in August. The task force is working diligently to develop a reopening plan that allows for flexibility, transparency, and prioritizes the health and safety of our community.

<u>Reopening Task Force</u>	<u>Medical Advisory Committee</u>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Patti Keator</li><li>• Nikki Kearn</li><li>• Katherine Johnson</li><li>• Charles "Bill" Davidson</li><li>• Jennifer Jackson</li><li>• Shayne Grove</li><li>• Rob Hensley</li><li>• Scott Toenges</li><li>• Karen Combs</li><li>• Fran Williams</li><li>• Gissel Valois</li><li>• Sarah Donovan and Brian Rose (Co-Chairs)</li><li>• Steve D. Whitaker (Ex officio).</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Whitner S. Davis, MD   Emergency Medicine, Orlando Health</li><li>• William Adamson, MD   Pediatric Surgeon, Nemours;</li><li>• John M Davidyock, MD   Associate Chief Medical Officer, Advent Health</li><li>• Denise Serafin, MD   Pediatrician, Windermere Pediatrics</li><li>• Wendy S. Quirino, MD   Obstetrics-Gynecology, Women's Care Florida</li><li>• Karim Alarakhia, MD   Anesthesiology, Orlando Health</li><li>• Melissa Pifer, RN   School Nurse, TFA</li><li>• Brian Rose   Assistant Head of School</li><li>• Gissel Valois   Director of Strategic Initiatives</li></ul>

# ACADEMIC CONTINUITY

## *Scholastic Excellence*

### **On-Campus Learning**

Students will re-engage in **On-Campus Learning** beginning August 12 as scheduled on the 2020-2021 school calendar. We will remain focused on current health department information, CDC recommendations, and updated public health guidelines as they are issued. In the event that we are mandated to close schools or a legally mandated stay-at-home-order is issued, students will transition to remote learning.



## **Hybrid Learning**

If a student/family should wish to remain enrolled at The First Academy, but does not feel comfortable with their student/s being on campus due to pre-existing health conditions or discomfort, Hybrid Learning will be available. This model will be individualized and may look different in each grade level/division.

This model will include a combination of live instruction along with a live class (via an iPad, computer, etc.) as well as teacher-directed learning with individual support.

We are currently using this model in the Upper School for summer class sessions. A live class session with students is instructed by a teacher, while others are connecting to the class from their devices at home. All students are receiving the same class content, at the same time, in different locations.

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## **Remote Learning**

In the unlikely event that our local community experiences a spike in COVID-19 cases and an interruption of on-campus learning occurs, we will be prepared to shift to Remote Learning immediately and effectively. With the implementation of technology platforms during on-campus learning, the goal is to make this transition for students and parents as seamless as possible.

# ON CAMPUS LEARNING

*Welcome Back Royals!*



***Schedule*** Planning for a five-day week schedule with similar start and end times as previous years.

***Extracurriculars*** Planning for regular programming as well as modified programming that allows for continued delivery and participation with social distancing.

***Aftercare*** Planning with modifications, may be a limited capacity at certain times during the year.

***Technology Platforms*** Provide consistency between on-campus learning and remote learning.

***Preparing for Interruptions*** We are hopeful that we can be on campus the majority of the school year, but we are planning to be ready if we need to deliver remote learning intermittently.

# HYBRID LEARNING

## *Expanding The Classroom*



We recognize that there may be a number of reasons that students may need to be away from school during the 2020/21 school year. Hybrid Learning may look different at each grade level/division, but will include a combination of synchronous live teaching and asynchronous learning along with individual support.

A Hybrid Learning model will allow us to support students and families who:

- Have a student in a high-risk category
- Have a student with a temporary absence due to a health concern where on campus attendance is not recommended/allowed, but the student can still work from home to allow students to continue with instruction and not fall behind
- May not feel comfortable having their student on the physical campus during the 2020/21 school year due to the inherent risk of possible exposure

### ***Candidacy:***

Those wishing to utilize this option long-term should schedule a time to meet with their Divisional Principal. This option is well-suited for many students, but also requires some at-home support and open lines of communication. Long-term candidacy and approval will be based on a case-by-case basis by the school.



# REMOTE LEARNING

## *Preparing For Interruptions*



This model provides improved delivery based on what worked well and what was challenging this year.

Key components of The First Academy's Remote Learning based on best practices for our students include:

- Combination of synchronous live instruction and asynchronous instruction through instructional videos
- School/Life balance
- Spiritual growth
- Social engagement
- Structure
- Personalized support
- Instruction and structure for social and emotional well-being
- Continuity in learning

# PHYSICAL CAMPUS

## Health and Wellness

We will rely on official guidelines and medical recommendations in order to define the precautions needed to operate as safely as possible, including measures for on-campus classroom safety, the common and daily use of the lunch gathering area, chapel, sports and events, and all other campus-related activities. While specific decisions and plans will be finalized over the next several weeks, strategies are being developed in the following areas including, but not limited to:

### **Sanitizing and cleaning process:**

- Increase frequency of cleaning in the classrooms
- Increase frequency of cleaning in gym and sports facilities and changing rooms
- Provide hand hygiene stations at entrances and exits

### **Screening and Monitoring:**

- Ability to screen students and employees for symptoms and history of exposure
- Access to a nurse to facilitate the care of sick children
- Plan for if students or employees get sick

### **Changes to campus access for visitors and parents**

### **Modification of programs and events in compliance with applicable state and local orders in the event of an outbreak**

### **Preparing for all possible scenarios and interruptions**

### **Implementation of social distancing measures**

### **Training for all employees on health and safety protocols**



*During the next 60 days our campus will go through an intensified cleaning, disinfection, and ventilation process.*

## Requirements for Face Coverings

Students will be required to bring a cloth face covering to school every day. Use of this covering will be determined based on physical distancing.

We understand that prolonged use of face coverings could be difficult and even inappropriate for some students (especially our younger students), and we hope to provide flexibility based on meeting physical distancing criteria and government restrictions. We also know that there will be students on campus who will wear face coverings for longer periods of time, including students who are directed to do so by their healthcare providers.

### **For All Students:**

- Bring a cloth face covering to school every day.
- Students may be asked to wear their face covering when physical distancing is not possible.
- Many students may choose (or need) to wear masks all day.

### **Your Partnership**

All families must commit to supporting The First Academy's health and wellness protocols and must agree to keep children at home when they are not feeling well, have COVID-like symptoms, or have potentially been exposed. In addition, we are asking families to perform daily temperature checks of their children before coming to school. If a student has a temperature of 100.0 or higher, they should stay home.

# DIGITAL PLATFORMS

## Technology Partners



RenWeb/FACTS will continue to be our school's main information system. Parents and students can access grades, calendars, announcements, and more.



During the transition to Remote/Hybrid learning, Google Meet will be one of TFA's primary platforms for LIVE (synchronous) instruction. Google Hangout/Meet can be joined directly from the calendar invite sent from your teacher or the lesson plan posted in Renweb/FACTS.

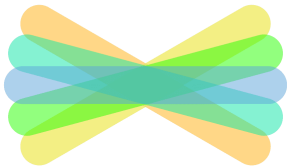


Zoom is a video conferencing platform that can be used to provide LIVE (synchronous) virtual class meeting space similar to Google Hangout/Meet.



Google Classroom

Google Classroom is the platform that will be used in 3rd through 5th grade. Students will be accustomed to managing their work, discussions, and assignments through this platform. Class assignments, videos, and announcements will be housed in Google Classroom.



SEESAW

For students in KPrep-2nd, SeeSaw will be the online platform for viewing video lessons and uploading students' documentation of work (pictures, videos, etc.).



canvas

Canvas will be used for students in grades 6-12. Canvas is The First Academy's Learning Management System (LMS) providing an online component for courses. Students may take tests, turn in assignments, and participate in collaborative learning environments.

# TFA VIRTUAL

## *A New Offering*

We are delighted to introduce a new program that The First Academy is able to offer for Upper School students this coming year. Recently, we signed an agreement with a world leader in online Christian education and we launched *TFA Virtual*. *TFA Virtual* will provide online course offerings led by certified, Christian school instructors.

Our live classroom experiences will continue with all of the academically rigorous courses that our students and parents are accustomed to. With the addition of *TFA Virtual*, we are now able to offer more course options than ever before. The state of Florida requires all 9-12 grade students to complete one online course before graduation and this will allow our students to meet that requirement through our own new program. It will also provide greater flexibility for students as they work with the guidance counselors to create class schedules.



# CLOSING NOTES

## *Here To Support You*

### **Tuition and Fees**

For campus closures requiring more than 30 days of remote learning, The First Academy will examine extending credits for activities that a remote environment may restrict the school's ability to deliver effectively.

### **Communications**

We are committed to providing clear and continuous communication of essential information and updates for our families. Parents can expect to receive communication through email notifications, weekly newsletters, text alerts, and TFA social media updates (Instagram, Facebook, and Twitter). [The First Academy website](#) will also serve as a resource hub for parent and student information. As always, we will communicate clearly and often with families. We have launched our [Royal Reopening Portal](#), which will house this packet, as well as all pertinent reopening information. The portal will also house all Back to School information such as supply lists, etc. for the 2020 - 21 school year. Questions? Contact [tfacommunications@thefirstacademy.org](mailto:tfacommunications@thefirstacademy.org).

### **Leadership**

Flexibility and transparency are of the utmost importance and we want to encourage you to contact our team if you have any questions about how we are serving your family. The First Academy is here to not only provide a sense of continuity of learning for your child(ren), but also to provide a strong and safe community for your entire family.

## Additional Reopening Information

This publication is the first in a three volume series that will outline the safe reopening of our campus. We expect to release Volume Two the week of June 29 and Volume Three the week of July 13.

In **Volume Two** you can expect to see updates regarding:

- Detailed Health & Wellness Information
- Academic Programming
- Student Life
- Extracurricular Activities
- Athletics & The Arts
- Lunch
- Arrival & Dismissal
- Parent Support & Volunteering
- The Aftercare Program
- Calendar & Event Updates
- Back to School Information such as supply lists

In **Volume Three** you can expect to see:

- Information about Meet The Teacher and the first week of school
- The unveiling of the 2020 -21 school year theme

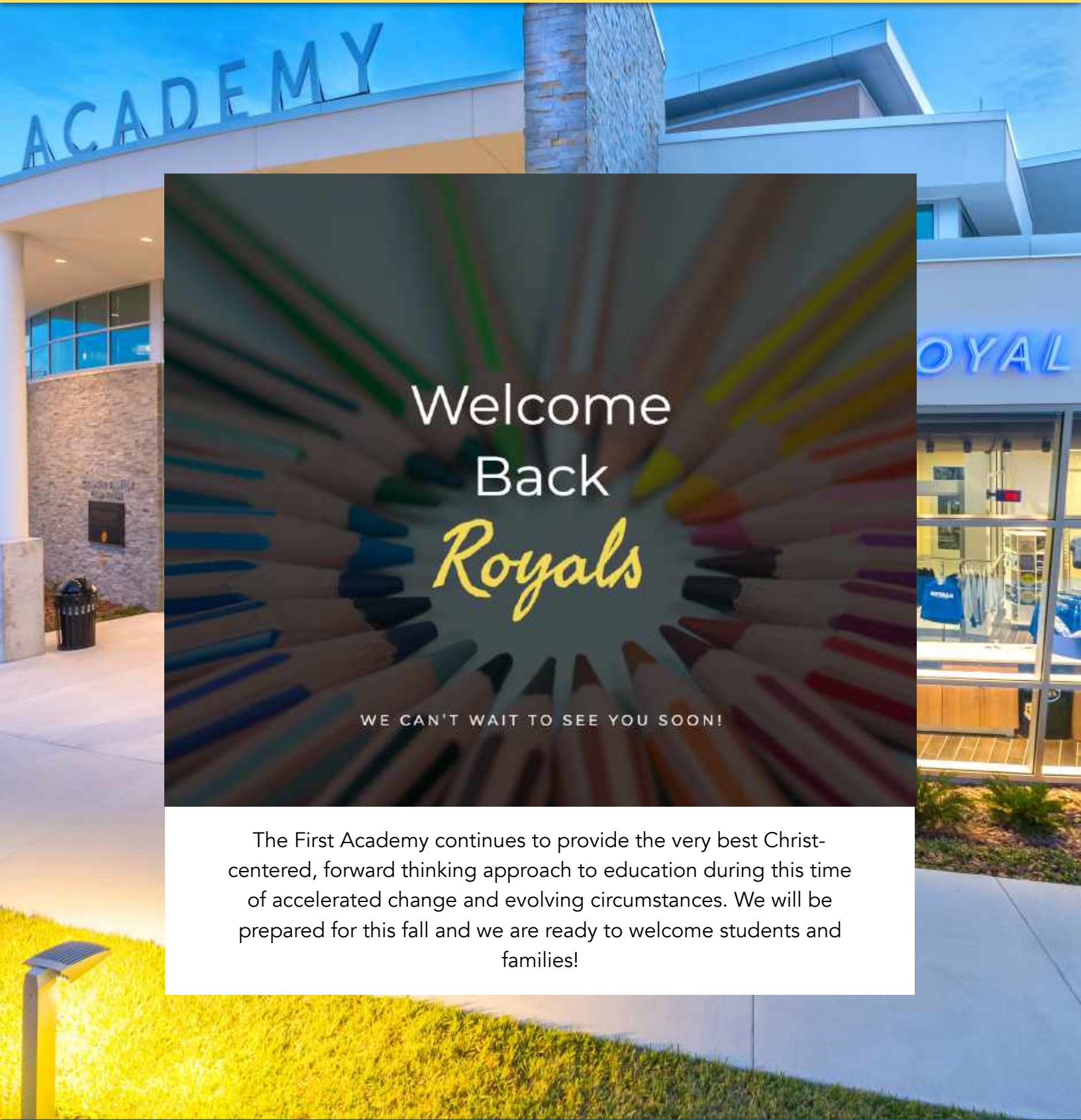
In case you missed the recent Weekly Reopening Updates from Dr. Steve D. Whitaker, Head of School, you can access them now here:

- [Did You Hear The Rumor?](#)
- [Royal Reopening - June 4, 2020](#)
- [Royal Reopening - June 11, 2020](#)



# SEE YOU SOON

*We Are Stronger Together*

A graphic featuring a sunburst pattern of colored pencils pointing towards the center. The pencils are in various colors including green, yellow, blue, red, and purple. The background is dark grey.

Welcome  
Back  
*Royals*

WE CAN'T WAIT TO SEE YOU SOON!

The First Academy continues to provide the very best Christ-centered, forward thinking approach to education during this time of accelerated change and evolving circumstances. We will be prepared for this fall and we are ready to welcome students and families!