

# 2020 - 2021 Royally Reuniting

*A Guide To Reopening The First Academy*



VOLUME 3 OF 3

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# MESSAGE FROM THE HEAD OF SCHOOL

## *We Are Ready*

It has been a busy summer at The First Academy. We have been preparing to return TFA to live on-campus instruction that is adaptive, engaging, and joyful while mitigating against the spread of the virus. I want to thank our Medical Advisory Committee and our Reopening Task Force. This group of TFA parents and friends has provided a tremendous amount of guidance and wisdom, assisting in crafting and approving our reopening plans.

Dr. Whit Davis is a TFA Parent, Orlando Health Physician, and a member of our Medical Advisory Committee. He graciously volunteered his time to work with our team to create the helpful safety video below. This video was created to supplement the information shared in all of our Royal Reopening Guides. It is my hope that you will watch this video as a family - it really provides a helpful snapshot of what daily life will look like this fall at TFA.

[VIEW VIDEO NOW!](#)

August 12 is just a few short weeks away. In the following pages, you will find more information outlining what we are doing to prepare for our students and staff to return safely. Daily life may look a little different this year, but you can be confident in three things: 1) Our faith is placed in Jesus, 2) Our faculty and staff love your children, and 3) We will be ready.

Sincerely,



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

# SCHOOL YEAR THEME

## *The Greatest Of These*

### One Unifying Challenge

We've spent a lot of time thinking about and praying over our school year theme for 2020-2021. With so much division, strife, and discord around us we have the opportunity to be a light in a dark world.

This year our prayer is that we will focus on what unites us as a resilient and optimistic community of Christ-followers. What unites us is our love for Jesus Christ - the one who gave His life for us.

**Our school year theme is taken from I Corinthians 13:13, "And now these three remain: faith hope and love. But the greatest of these is love!"**

Join us in praying that our love for Jesus and for one another will be a testimony to the Gospel. Let's focus on the greatest of these ... love.

And now these three remain:  
FAITH HOPE AND LOVE BUT  
THE  
**GREATEST**  
OF THESE IS **LOVE**



# ROYAL FAMILY REUNION & TFA DAY OF PRAYER

## *A Royal Reopening Event*

Join us on August 10 or 11 for a very special reopening event! We look forward to welcoming students and families back to campus in Royal Style! Families will have the opportunity to visit our school buildings, connect with teachers, tour the new Gather space, pray together, and more at this safe and socially distanced event.

A graphic with a dark blue background featuring a light blue geometric pattern of interconnected lines forming various polygons. The text is centered and reads: "And now these three remain:" in a small, white, sans-serif font. Below this, "FAITH HOPE AND LOVE BUT" is written in a yellow, sans-serif font, arched upwards. In the center, "THE" is written in a white, serif font, flanked by two white decorative swirls. Below "THE" is the word "GREATEST" in a large, white, serif font. At the bottom, "OF THESE IS LOVE" is written in a yellow, sans-serif font, arched downwards, with "LOVE" in a larger, bolder font. Below this is another white decorative swirl.

YOU'RE INVITED TO THE  
**ROYAL FAMILY REUNION**

Monday, August 10 9:00 am - 3:00 pm  
& Tuesday, August 11 9:00 am - 12:00 pm



## JOIN US FOR THE ROYAL FAMILY REUNION



### TOUR THE GATHER SPACE

Visit the redesigned  
Gather lunchroom  
and enjoy a special  
grab-and-go treat.

Students and families will be  
welcomed to campus with this new,  
joyful event. You will have the  
opportunity to visit classrooms,  
connect with your teachers, and pray  
together.



### ROYAL STORE OPEN

Stock up on the latest  
Royals gear, including  
face coverings, Spirit  
Wear, and more.

**In order to keep this event as safe and socially distanced as possible, families in each division are asked to sign-up for a time to attend the event.** An Event Map will be provided with detailed information outlining best practices for moving through campus for each division. All attendees must follow health and safety protocols outlined in our [Campus Visitor Health & Safety Guidelines](#). Masks will be required and temperature checks will be taken upon arrival.

If you have not already done so, please sign-up for an event time-slot below!

### [Lower School Sign-Up](#)

For those who cannot attend in-person, Lower School families can still sign-up for a time to visit with their teacher, and they will visit virtually.

### [Middle/Upper School Sign-Up](#)

For those who cannot attend in-person, Middle & Upper School teachers will send a pre-recorded welcome video to families.

## The Classical School & The First Hope

The Royal Family Reunion event for these divisions will be held on **Monday, August 10 from 9:00 am to 3:00 pm**. Families will experience the newly designed FBO playground and enjoy a special grab-and-go treat, visit classrooms on the FBO campus, connect with teachers, and pray together. Sign-up details and information will be shared with TCS & TFH families directly from those divisions.

## TFA Day of Prayer

Join us at **1:00 pm on Tuesday, August 11** for a time of school-wide prayer. This is a special day that we designate each year to come together as a school family and pray for the coming school year, our students and families, our surrounding community, and our country. We ask that at 1:00 pm, from wherever you are, you take a moment to pause and pray for a safe, successful, and joyful 2020-2021 school year. Below, we have provided some verses to help guide you and your family in this special prayer time.

- **PEACE:** [2 Timothy 1:7](#)
- **BLESSING:** [1 Chronicle 4:10](#)
- **WISDOM:** [1 Chronicle 12:32](#)
- **PROTECTION:** [John 10:10](#)
- **LOVE:** [John 13:35](#)

We also want to pray for you! Families can send prayer requests to our Leadership Team by clicking the link below. Your prayer request will be assigned to your divisional leader and we will include you in our prayers on the TFA Day of Prayer, and throughout the year!

## [Submit A Prayer Request](#)





# HEALTH & WELLNESS PLEDGE WITH COVID WAIVER

## *A Partnership*

### **A Partnership In Health & Wellness**

The health and wellness of our students, families, and our school has always been a partnership. As we enter the 2020-2021 school year, it is important that the bonds of this partnership are stronger than ever. In preparation for this school year, we are asking that **ALL families complete and sign our Health & Wellness Pledge by Friday, August 7.**

One parent must complete the pledge for all students. If your family has students in both TFA 5-day school as well as The Classical School and/or The First Hope, please complete both the TFA 5-day pledge as well as the pledge for The Classical School/The First Hope. In addition, per AAP recommendations, we encourage all students to have their health & wellness check-ups/physicals prior to the start of school.

### **[TFA 5-Day Health & Wellness Pledge With Covid Waiver](#)**

### **[The Classical School/The First Hope Health & Wellness Pledge With Covid Waiver](#)**





# UPDATED CAMPUS HEALTH & SAFETY MEASURES

## *Procedure Changes Since Volume 2*

### Important Updates

With the rapidly changing environment and health and safety information shared by the CDC, AAP, and the health department, we must be flexible and adaptable in our reopening plans and procedures.

Below, you will find the most recent changes that have been updated since the release of Volume 2.

**The health and safety measures outlined below are for Phases 2 and 3 and will continue to be updated should we enter Phase 4. For more information on the Phases, [please visit page 11 of Volume 2 of our Royal Reopening Guide](#).** Please note that policies are subject to change based on current AAP, CDC, and department of health recommendations.



### New Plexiglass Shields

To keep students as healthy and safe as possible, we are installing plexiglass safety shields on all student desks, tables, and work areas. These add an additional layer of protection for all students. As far as we know, TFA is the ONLY K-12 Private School in Orlando that has chosen to invest in this protection for all students.



### New Outdoor Spaces

We are excited to announce that we have added two large tents to campus that students can use as outdoor learning areas and outdoor eating spaces. These structures are being installed in the following areas:

- **Lower School:** Over the outdoor basketball court area
- **Gather:** Over the new outdoor area in the courtyard



## Social Distancing

The AAP recommends that students be distanced by three to six feet in the school setting. We are blessed to say that all student desks will be placed between five and six feet apart. This physical distancing, in conjunction with the plexiglass desk shields, will keep our students as safe and healthy as possible in the classroom.



## Face Masks

### LOWER SCHOOL

- Students must wear face masks when walking into the building from carline and when exiting the building to carline, to and from classes, and when unable to physically distance by 6 feet.
- Students will not be required to wear face masks in classrooms when appropriate physical distancing is possible, and when students are seated behind plexiglass desk shields. However, all students are welcome to wear face masks in the classroom if they so choose. Students moving throughout the classroom must wear a face mask when they are not seated behind the plexiglass desk shield.
- Students must wear face masks outdoors unless physically distanced by 6 feet or involved in strenuous physical activities.
- Students may remove face masks while eating or drinking if they are stationary and distanced.

### MIDDLE & UPPER SCHOOL

- Students are required to wear face masks indoors, while walking to and from classes, and outdoors unless physically distanced by 6 feet or involved in strenuous physical activities.
- Students may remove face masks while eating or drinking if they are stationary and distanced.

### ALL STUDENTS

Students will be required to wear a face mask (bandanas, shields, neck gaiters, etc. are not acceptable face masks).

### EMPLOYEES

Employees are required to wear a face mask while on campus, unless in a private office and able to physically distance by 6 feet. Teachers are required to wear a face mask during the school day. If a teacher is teaching a lesson and it requires the students to view his/her mouth, they can remove their mask at that time and wear only a face shield. When only wearing a faceshield, the must be distanced by 6 feet from students and other staff/faculty members. After using the face shield for specific instructional needs, the teacher will switch back to the face mask covering.

## CHOOSING A FACE COVERING

The biggest priority in choosing a face covering for your student is comfort. No inappropriate messages, graphics, political statements, or themes are allowed on face coverings. The administration of each division has the authority to make decisions on the appropriateness of all face coverings. If a child forgets, damages, or loses their mask, the school will be able to provide a disposable mask for the remainder of the day.



## Health Clinics

The main TFA Health Clinic located in the Lower School building will be staffed full time with a registered nurse. In addition to the main Health Clinic, both Lower School and Middle/Upper School will have newly designated isolation locations for students who are exhibiting COVID-like symptoms during the school day and waiting to be picked up by a parent. The isolation room for Lower School is located adjacent to the main Health Clinic. The isolation room for Middle and Upper School is located off the main lobby of Upper School.



## Student Life Updates

*For division specific information including arrival & dismissal, recess, and more, please visit the links below.*

[Preschool - 2's & 3's](#)

[Lower School Information](#)

[Middle & Upper School Information](#)

[The Classical School & The First Hope](#)





## COVID Scenarios

We have created a helpful chart that explains the protocols in place in the event a student or staff member experiences symptoms or exposure to COVID-19. We remind our families, faculty, and staff to check their temperatures at home before arriving on campus as a part of their health and wellness commitment.

You can view our COVID Scenario chart below.

[View COVID Scenario Chart](#)



## Additional Safety & Cleaning Procedures

The First Academy does not guarantee a COVID-19 free environment. Taking steps to reduce the risk of COVID-19 is the shared responsibility of The First Academy and every visitor, student, faculty, and staff of our campus community.

Here are our latest additions to support a Healthy Campus:

- Two Additional On-Campus Health Clinics
- Plexiglass Shields Installed at All Student Desks and Tables
- Face Shields for All Faculty
- Tented Outdoor Classroom Space and Additional Seating
- Health & Safety Signage Across Campus
- Faculty, Staff & Student Health and Wellness Trainings

Here are the ways we will maintain a Healthy Campus Environment:



**Social  
Distancing**



**Face  
Masks**



**Daily  
Temperature  
Checks**



**Registered  
Nurse  
On Campus**



**Hand  
Sanitizing  
Stations**



**High-Touch  
Surfaces  
Sanitized  
Frequently**



**Classrooms  
Cleaned &  
Disinfected  
Nightly**



**Restrooms  
Sanitized  
Frequently**



**Electrostatic  
Sprayers  
Used**



**Sterilization  
System for  
A/C Units**

# COVID Response Team

We are extremely grateful for all of the work that both the Medical Advisory Committee and the Reopening Task Force has done to prepare TFA for reopening on August 12. Their recommendations have assisted us in creating and shaping all of our Reopening Guides. As we now look toward the 2020-2021 school year, it is our pleasure to introduce those TFA community members and faculty/staff who are serving on our COVID Response Team.

<b><u>COVID Response Team</u></b>
Dr. Whit Davis
Sarah Donovan
Dr. Michael Middleton
Dr. Hank Miller
Nikki Kearn
Christina Richart
Dr. Matthew Robinson

This team has the important task of creating a detailed plan outlining our response and tracing protocols as well as a clear communications plan. We look forward to sharing more information with you as this team works to solidify these plans in the coming days.



# HELPFUL LINKS

## Find Out More

*For more information and details for reopening returning to school, visit the helpful links below!*

- [Learning Models](#)

If you are interested in Hybrid Learning, please contact your divisional principal by August 1 to secure your space within this program option.

Lower School: Contact Mrs. Jackson at [jenniferjackson@thefirstacademy.org](mailto:jenniferjackson@thefirstacademy.org)

Middle School: Contact Dr. Holter at [natalieholter@thefirstacademy.org](mailto:natalieholter@thefirstacademy.org)

Upper School: Contact Dr. Grove at [shaynegrove@thefirstacademy.org](mailto:shaynegrove@thefirstacademy.org)

- [Back to School Information \(Supply Lists & More\)](#)

- [Our Medical Advisory Committee and Reopening Task Force](#)

- [Digital Platforms](#)

- [Athletics](#)

- [Calendar Updates](#)

- [FAQ's](#)

# FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL

*August 12, 2020*

## 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, AAP, 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.

## 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), AAP 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

# CLOSING NOTES

## *Here To Support You*

### **Tuition and Fees**

Tuition and fees will be identical for either the On-Campus or Hybrid Learning options.

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.



## Reopening Information

This publication is the final in a three volume series that has outlined the safe reopening of our campus. You can view previous volumes here:

- [Royal Reopening Guide - Volume 1](#)
- [Royal Reopening Guide - Volume 2](#)

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](#)
- [Royal Reopening - June 18, 2020](#)
- [Royal Reopening - June 25, 2020](#)
- [Royal Reopening - July 2, 2020](#)
- [Royal Reopening - July 9, 2020](#)
- [Royal Reopening - July 16, 2020](#)
- [Royal Reopening - July 23, 2020](#)



# SEE YOU SOON!

*The Greatest Of These...*



Welcome  
Back  
*Royals*

**WE CAN'T WAIT TO SEE YOU ON AUGUST 12!**

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!