

## ***TRINITY CHRISTIAN ACADEMY – We Are WARRIORS and We Are Back!!***

Trinity Christian Academy (TCA) dedicated hundreds of hours of research, planning, and deliberation toward developing the best and safest reopening plan for our students. For the past several months, the TCA Board, Administration and Staff gathered information from, and consulted with, organizations such as the Association of Christian Schools International (ACSI), Center of Disease Control (CDC), American Academy of Pediatrics, Florida Department of Education, Palm Beach County Health Department and more.

On July 23, 2020, the CDC published a paper that addressed the importance of reopening America's schools this fall. Some of its key points, which furthered solidified our decision to both begin the 2020/2021 school year on time and reopen our campus for students, included:

### ***COVID-19's impact on children***

According to the CDC's report: *"The United States reported that children and adolescents under 18 years old account for under 7 percent of COVID-19 cases and less than 0.1 percent of COVID-19-related deaths. So far in this pandemic, deaths of children are less than in each of the last five flu seasons." The CDC also states that "children are unlikely to be major drivers of the spread of the virus."*

### ***Negative effects of extended school closures***

The CDC reported that: *"Following the wave of school closures in March 2020 due to COVID-19, academic learning slowed for most children and stopped for some," also adding that "school closure disrupts the delivery of in-person instruction and critical services to children and families, which has negative individual and societal ramifications."*

### ***Importance of in-person school environment***

The CDC concluded that: *"Schools provide critical services that help meet the needs of children and families . . . through supporting the development of social and emotional skills, creating a safe environment for learning . . . and facilitating physical activity."*

In addition, the Florida Department of Education encouraged schools to reopen for the sake of our students, their education, their socialization, and their overall well-being. The American Academy of Pediatrics strongly advocated that all policy considerations for this school year involve having students physically present in school.

Trinity Christian Academy stands in agreement with these professional institutions and acknowledges that in-person learning will not only give students the opportunity to thrive academically, mentally, socially, but spiritually as well.

To fulfill our mission, to minister to students, while providing them an excellent education for world change. We remain committed to an education that is based on the principles of God's Word. In this way, we can train, prepare, and equip young people to make a difference in their world, for every TCA student, TCA has offered our families an option.

TCA families have been given the choice, have their students present on campus, or take advantage of our Homebound Instruction option. The Homebound Instruction option allows students to join their class virtually, as their teachers live stream from each classroom. Students who chose this option “attend” school for the same hours as our on-campus students and are expected to follow the same guidelines for discipline and schoolwork.

As we prepared for the start of the 2020 /2021 school year, TCA invested hundreds of thousands of dollars into technology, campus improvements, staffing, etc. We also implemented new guidelines and protocols for the campus, and everyone on it. Our guidelines and protocols include:

- Temperatures taken of all students and staff
- Social Distancing of 3 – 6 feet is used throughout campus
- Masks are worn by everyone as they move around campus, or whenever social distancing guideline cannot be met
- Use of additional hand sanitizing stations installed around campus
- Only staff and students allowed to enter campus buildings until further notice
- TCA installed I Wave Air Purifiers in every HVAC unit on campus, which significantly improves air quality in each building and classroom as well as fighting the Covid-19 virus and other airborne germs.
- Increased frequency cleaning and sanitizing by our staff
- Utilizing common areas on campus for class allowing for greater social distancing
- Staff training

Finally, we remain hopeful and optimistic that the virus will soon come under control and we will once again be able to welcome back to campus all our TCA students and families. We have been encouraged by the recent news that the percentage of COVID tests coming back positive continues to fall.

On August 6<sup>th</sup>, NBC 6 reported that the positivity rate for all tests dropped to 11.67%, the lowest in the state since June 24<sup>th</sup>. They also explained that when retests of those already found to be positive are excluded, the new test rate plunged to 8.34%, the lowest since June 21<sup>st</sup>.

We know God is in control of EVERYTHING, and scripture tells us that He has a good and perfect plan. We continue to trust in our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ and in his abiding love and his great faithfulness. We pray daily for His love and protection for every member of the TCA Community, our state, country, and the world.

Serving Him,



Joseph E. Sanelli  
Head of School