

August 5, 2020

Dear TCA Family,

While the term “20/20 vision” is often used to indicate clarity, we can all agree that in looking ahead to 2020, there are many things that don’t seem so clear! In the middle of all that, please know that there is one thing you can count on...**All of us at TCA are and will remain fully committed to supporting the learning and spiritual growth of our students while providing a safe environment for our students and staff.**

We understand that no school can eliminate all risk of the spread of COVID-19, but current science does suggest steps that can significantly reduce risks. Many of these appear in TCA’s [Return to School Plan](#) which describes how TCA will work to prevent/diminish the spread of COVID-19 in our return to on campus learning.

TCA families also have an important role to play in keeping our school safe and open for in-person learning. In this team effort, it is vital that parents support school measures while encouraging and preparing their kids to do as well when school begins next week.

As the dad of a couple of big Marvel fans, I’m happy to share with other TCA moms and dads...

TCA’s FANTASTIC FOUR ways to stop the spread of COVID-19!

1. Screen & Report - Screen your kids daily for common COVID-19 symptoms including:

- Fever (100° or higher) or chills
- New uncontrolled cough that causes difficulty breathing
- Diarrhea, vomiting, or abdominal pain
- New onset of severe headache, especially with fever
- Sore throat

If a student exhibits these symptoms or has had close contact with anyone lab-confirmed with COVID-19, email the school (cfain@tcaeagles.org for PK-5; lskaggs@tcaeagles.org for 6-12) and keep the child home and isolated until the Re-entry Criteria below are met OR a negative COVID test is provided OR a doctor’s note is provided indicating an alternative diagnosis. Upon receiving that email, we will follow up quickly with additional information regarding next steps!

1. 24 hours fever free without the use of fever reducing medication; and
2. symptoms improved; and
3. 10 days have passed since symptoms first appeared

“*Close Contact*” is defined as (a) direct exposure to infectious secretions (e.g., being sneezed on) or (b) being within 6 feet for a cumulative duration of 15 minutes. Individuals are presumed infectious two days before symptom onset, or two days prior to a confirming test with asymptomatic individuals lab-confirmed with COVID-19.

2. Face Coverings - At this time, adults and students in grades 4-12 must wear a face covering over the mouth and nose at school (exceptions allowed for medical issues or during some activities like eating/drinking, actively exercising, etc.). Most kids are capable of wearing a face covering, and some even think it’s fun. Others may need a little help preparing to do so. Here’s a resource that might help: [Face Coverings for Children During COVID-19](#).

3. Handwashing - Kids of all ages must learn and practice good handwashing practices including using soap and water and washing at least 20 seconds, especially after coughing/ sneezing, using the restroom, etc. When handwashing isn't practical, hand sanitizer is a great option. Here's a resource that even includes a video to watch with your kids: [Hand Washing: Why It's So Important](#).

4. Physical Distancing - Handshakes and hugs will return someday, but for now, we will physically distance as much as we can. Some measures will be built-in (desks further apart, etc.), but we also ask students to find new ways to show affection and to give each other a little extra space at school. Parents can help by talking about the importance of physical distancing, or maybe even helping their kids perfect their elbow bumps and "air high fives."

Families are asked to step up efforts to reduce the likelihood of COVID exposure for a couple of weeks before school starts. Let's all come back healthy and ready for school.

In closing, here's a bit of good news! **TCA is pleased to announce COVID-19 testing for students and staff on campus through our T-Care telemedicine program (results available within the hour)**. In the words of one TCA dad, "That's a game changer!" For more info on this and T-Care features, or with questions regarding our school's COVID-19 responses, please contact TCA School Nurse, Deon Kisiah at kisiah@tcaeagles.org.

While we all know this year is likely to have its share of challenges, we know that our united and strong school family can face those challenges under the strong and loving hands of our Heavenly Father "*who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine.*"

Yours truly,

Mike Skaggs, TCA Head of School

More Back to School details will come your way over the next couple of days, including:

- **Drive Thru Campus Blessing** -- This Friday and Saturday we have a plan for friends of TCA to walk or drive the campus praying for our school. Let's aim for a dawn to dusk prayer covering!
- **Parent Night** -- This can't be held as usual this year, but a video version of this event will be shared soon. Our tradition of "Mini School" for secondary parents will be replaced by emails from teachers to secondary students and parents with class-specific info.
- **PK-5 Howdy Days** -- This happens during the day next Monday and Tuesday allowing elementary kids and their parents to visit classrooms and meet teachers
- **6-12 Student Day** -- This happens all day next Tuesday for secondary students to pick up schedules, set up lockers, have school pictures taken (get that chapel uniform ready!), and other activities.

**This and more will be posted soon on the Back to School page of the TCA website.
Look for text alerts letting you know when it becomes available!**

F E A R N O T

TCA 2020 • JOSHUA 1:9