

March 20, 2020

Faith Family,

Faith Christian School has been working hard to make arrangements for the ongoing coronavirus situation. Please take note of the following announcements.

- 1) ***Faith Christian School will be closed for the week of March 23 -27 for all students and staff.***
- 2) ***Faith Christian Preschools*** – we are in the process of discussing logistics of possibly opening. Communication will be sent out as soon as final decision is made.
- 3) Any other school-related events for the month of March has been cancelled.
- 4) ***No decision has been made for any school days beyond March 29.*** Scenarios are being discussed that could result in longer absence from school. Faith will be cautious but also slow to commit to lengthy absences until we see how this coronavirus situation develops.
- 5) From this time forward, a Schoolcast message will be sent out to make you aware of an update that will be posted on the school's website. The Quick School link to look in on the school's website will be labeled – Coronavirus Information. We have chosen this option because Schoolcast at times has been overwhelmed by thousands of schools trying to send lengthy updates at the same time. Plus, the website is a more centralized location for information.
- 6) We would like to thank parents and students for the excellent job that was done in picking up materials/books in a timely manner on Wednesday.
- 7) ***For the school week of March 23-27, materials/assignments are in the packets picked up on Wednesday.*** There is no online instruction for next week. School for next week is assignment based. Those completed tasks will be returned to school when school re-opens.
- 8) ***If we are out the week of March 30-April 3, Faith is seeking to transition to online instruction.*** You should be receiving emails with instructions to start that process. Please follow those instructions. If you have problems, reach out to the school hotline to help with any issues.
- 9) ***If you do not have internet at home, there are some options being provided for free internet for 90 days.*** Below are the providers that are offering help.

Home Internet Support from Businesses

There are many service providers who are giving students free or extra service temporarily.

-Spectrum (free Internet access for students): Call 1-844-488-8395 for details.

-XFINITY (free access to wi-fi hotspots): <https://wifi.xfinity.com/>

-Comcast (free Internet access for students): <https://www.internetessentials.com/covid19>

10) ***The school buildings have been locked and are not accessible to any staff, students or parents until we are able to return to school.*** This includes the gym which is very popular for folks to stop by. This is not a choice; it is a requirement. Approval to enter the buildings will only be given by Mr. Daniel.

11) As it will become necessary, Faith will be reassessing the school/preschool calendar for the rest of the year. We will make accommodations in the calendar as it becomes necessary. There have been many years that we missed quite a few days due to weather-related issues. Faith made wise decisions in making up days and instructional time.

12) With all of this said, we are in uncharted waters. No one in education has ever been faced with the situation that is currently before us. If it was a snowstorm or a hurricane, we could look to how we have handled similar situations in the past. We are dealing with a much different situation – a virus that we cannot see and then trying to educate in a manner that we never have before. We covet your prayers and your patience. We love our families, and it grieves us to have to cancel school. We are working hard to provide quality education in a different manner.

13) ***Randolph County has also opened the option to help with meals for families who are hard hit and unable to provide food for their families.***

All children (0-18) are eligible to receive one breakfast and lunch meal per day at no cost. Only one full tray may be claimed for each child at breakfast and/or lunch. Breakfast will be provided from 8:15 a.m. – 9:00 a.m. (“Grab-&-Go” only). Lunch will be provided from 11:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. (“Grab-&-Go” only). School site to pick up meals is Ramseur Elementary for Faith students needing help.

As we walk through this difficulty together, no doubt fear and questions can overwhelm us. We have to remind ourselves that this is not the first time that God’s people have had to wrestle with an unseen affliction or enemy. Moses could not see the way through the Red Sea until God opened the way. Abraham went looking for a place that he had never been or had ever seen with a map, but God showed the way. The children of Israel many times faced an enemy who overwhelmed them, and it seemed impossible to defeat, but God sent angels, hornets, a shepherd boy, a fiery furnace or just revealed Himself to get them through. Faith is the substance of things hoped for

and the evidence of things not seen. The virus may be something we cannot see, but we battle it; faith may be something we cannot see, but it battles for us. God is bigger! Sometimes, God just simply gives His people the grace to endure and go on. I often think of Jesus as He met so many during His earthly ministry who battled the infirmities of the flesh. Faith in the Master got them through. Dear friends, we may walk through rough days ahead. I remind you that the Shepherd only leads His sheep where He has already been Himself. Trust your Shepherd! Though the way gets rough, darkness hides the next step, obstacles pile up before me, and I doubt that God is good and that He cares. I remind you that He knows your name; He sees you in your storm; He gives grace when the burden gets greater, and He is a good God.

Todd Daniel
FCS Administrator