



July 9, 2021

Dear FCS Families,

I hope that you are enjoying time reconnecting with friends and family. While the majority of our students and staff members are off on summer adventures, we're hard at work running our BLAST Summer Day Camp and Little Friends Preschool Summer Sessions while preparing for the 2021/22 school year.

It will be such a blessing to have all students back on campus for regular classes this fall. As of today, FCS is anticipating a total enrollment of just under 1,100 students with 800 K-8 students and close to 300 students between our two preschools. We are grateful for every student returning to Friends this fall and I want to thank all families for the trust you've placed in our school. The challenges we've faced together have resulted in a strong partnership and point toward a bright future for Friends Christian School. Thank you for being a part of our community.

The increases in enrollment will result in new faces in both our student body and in our faculty and staff from preschool through 8th grade. To accommodate students while maintaining existing student/teacher ratios, we'll be adding additional classrooms in both preschools as well as in 1st, 2nd, and 5th grades. We're also expanding our program in other key ways including:

- An additional Student Success Teacher and Aide for elementary school
- A dedicated Instructional Aide for each 5th grade classroom
- Expansion of our Middle School Foundations Program to 7th and 8th grade
- New mathematics curriculum in 4th - 8th grade (inclusion of K-3 beginning in 22/23)

As I shared in the end of year update, we're also implementing Early Dismissal Days on each Tuesday next year. **NOTE:** Early Dismissal Days are for K-8 only and **will not** impact preschool. We will utilize this time to provide professional development for our teachers as they seek to meet the needs of each student. As for students, we will provide additional enrichment activities each Tuesday afternoon. A list of options and additional programming information will be shared by our principals so watch for updates as we approach the new year.

In addition to these new features, we're also looking forward to the return of in-person preschool chapels and other activities that were suspended last year. Again, more specific information will be shared in other updates.

I'm also happy to tell you that this summer's facility upgrades are now well underway. Work to be completed this summer includes:

- Renovation of our Kindergarten Classrooms and Kindergarten Playground
- New carpeting and paint in our 5th Grade Wing
- Exterior repair and painting of the Junior High Building
- Shade structures at Little Friends Preschool
- A new roof on our Elementary Building
- Additional security fencing at Rose Drive

These upgrades are the first steps in a multi-year plan for classroom and facility improvements as we approach the school's 50th anniversary in 2025. We'll have much more to share as we return next fall.

Speaking of the fall, we hope you are all planning to join us for next year's *Evening with Friends* on Saturday, October 16th. Those of you in attendance at our 2020 gala know it was a night to remember and this year's event is shaping up to be even better. Watch for more details but mark your calendar now for this once-a-year event.

As we reflect on last school year and look forward to next year, I trust you recognize the commitment and care shown by our teachers and staff members each day. We all take this commitment seriously and it is a pleasure to serve our students. Most importantly, we know that we all serve the same King and He is Greater than any challenge we will face. Enjoy the summer and we'll look forward to seeing you soon.

Sincerely,

Todd Perkins
Head of School