

Dear Preschool Families,

Welcome to the 2021/2022 school year at Friends Christian School! I am positive it is going to be a fantastic year!

Our theme for this school year is "Greater Is He," and our supporting verse is 1 John 4:4 "You, dear children, are from God and have overcome them because the one who is in you is greater than the one who is in the world." It is such a privilege to serve our God and to know He is greater than anything possible. I'm excited to share God's love with you and your children this school year.

It is a joy to announce the preschools will be returning to in-person Chapels this year! This announcement gives me such great pleasure. I love being in Chapel with the children each week, and I'm so happy we will no longer be meeting via Zoom. Parents are invited back into Chapel as well!. At this time, we do have to ask if you attend Chapel that you please wear a mask, even if you are vaccinated. When this state regulation changes, I will notify you immediately.

While I am writing about changes, we are so excited to welcome all our families back inside the gates/door and have you deliver your children to their classroom doors. I know the teachers are so excited to see you each morning and afternoon and to be able to connect with you in person.

The state still requires all teachers to wear a mask, whether they are vaccinated or not. Teachers may wear a face shield when giving instructions, reading stores, or social distancing from the students and adults. The state also strongly recommends that all children who have not been vaccinated (all preschool children) wear masks. If you want to send your child to school in a mask, we will do our very best to help them keep the mask on their sweet face. However, we will not make a child wear a mask if they do not keep the mask on. We have disposable masks at the drop-off area and in all classrooms if a child chooses to wear a mask. We are doing our best to keep the state mandates and keep a happy school environment. Again, when this state regulation changes, I will notify you immediately. (I will be crying with joy as well!)

Later this summer, you will receive an updated Family Handbook and a COVID-19 Family Handbook. All preschools in California, whether private or public, are required to follow state guidelines. These guidelines are monitored by the Department of Social Services, Community Care Licensing (CCL). CCL completes "drop-in visits" once or twice a year to ensure we follow all the state regulations. If we are found not following the regulations, the school will be cited and fined. If you have any questions, please feel free to ask. We are happy to try to explain.

Please know I am here to help you in any way possible. I love to pray for our families and support you in this great adventure. If there is anything you need help with, please feel free to reach out to me.

I am praying for you and your children as you either return to school or begin school for the first time. Please know the first days of school often start with tears. (Really more often the parents than the children.) You trust us with your treasures, and please know we will love your children and help them feel secure this school year. We will also be modeling and teaching them about God's great love and that He is greater than anything else they may face. Thank you for allowing us to join your family.

In His Sweet Love, Sandy Pierce Regional Director of Preschools