



OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
RANDAL L. MARTIN

July 9, 2020

Dear TKA Family-

By now, you have probably heard of the Palm Beach County School District's preliminary decision to begin the school year with online classes. While I will not comment on the conflicting positions of our federal, state, and local authorities or the educational and student health ramifications of such decisions, I would like to answer some frequently asked questions and explain why private schools like The King's Academy are better positioned to reopen safely than are public schools.

Will The King's Academy adopt an online learning format for the 2020-21 school year?

It remains TKA's intention to open its campus for in-person learning on August 13th. I realize that people, including those in the King's community, may have differing views on this decision with their opinions being influenced by personal circumstances and beliefs. As administrators of TKA, it is our responsibility to make decisions that will benefit the large majority of our families and students. To date, we have heard from many more constituents who desire an in-person learning experience for their children. Additionally, many national and state health experts as well as local physicians and pediatricians have advised us about minimizing risk and operating safely. They have told us that the vast majority of school-aged children will not suffer ill effects from COVID-19, and that a continuation of online learning will be damaging with respect to students' academic, social, and spiritual development. They have advised us to expect COVID-19 cases to occur and to have a plan to detect and isolate those with illness while continuing to operate safely for those who are healthy. We have made such a plan.

How can King's operate safely if Palm Beach County Schools cannot?

Since March 13th, TKA's administrators, faculty, and staff have worked nearly every day, including weekends and holidays, to finish the 2019-20 school year with excellence and to prepare our campus, plans, and procedures to safely reopen for 2020-21. Sadly, this type of effort does not appear to have been possible at other educational institutions in our county. Additionally, King's relatively small size and ample financial resources allow it to invest in the campus improvements, personal protective equipment, and supplies necessary to nimbly react to changing circumstances and guidance. The overall health and safety of our faculty, staff, and students is and will remain our primary concern. While we cannot eliminate the risk of COVID-19 entirely, I believe that we have made every reasonable effort to operate our school in a prudent manner.

What will happen if government orders or worsening health conditions in Palm Beach County force TKA into an online format during the school year?

King's Board of Governors and I understand the financial commitment and sacrifice that our parents make to have their children at our school. We also realize and have heard that a number of families believe that online schooling should be offered at a discounted tuition level. Therefore, TKA is committing for the upcoming school year to offer a significant per student discount for each complete quarter that is not conducted in-person. The amount of this discount will be communicated by the third week of July. Please note, that should this new policy be implemented, it will result in a significant

reduction in our school's workforce and with a significant budgetary deficit. Thankfully, since March, our school has raised significant resources to partially offset these losses. Additionally, we have built reserves throughout the years for such contingencies. However, I ask you to pray that this tuition reduction provision is not needed for significant portions of the school year, as it will be detrimental to many hard-working and loyal faculty and staff members who are the heart and soul of our school and could significantly harm the current financial well-being of our school.

Will The King's Academy offer both in-person and online classes?

Unfortunately, TKA does not have sufficient personnel to operate both learning platforms simultaneously while maintaining the academic excellence that our families expect. So, we will either offer in-person classes or pivot to provide an online learning experience if circumstances warrant.

What will happen to sports, fine arts, and elementary extracurricular activities?

The King's Academy remains committed to offering its students opportunities to perform in sports and the arts. In fact, junior varsity and varsity athletes have been safely conditioning on our campus this summer. Our TKA Lions Athletics Department remains in communication with the Florida High School Athletic Association, South Florida Conference, and local competitor schools to plan for our upcoming seasons. As in the past, we will broadcast games to allow all fans to safely enjoy them. Our Smith Family Conservatory has developed creative ways for our artistic students to offer distanced performances this school year. In some instances, this creativity will allow performances to be broadcast to a wider audience than normal. However, at this time, elementary afterschool activities will remain suspended until the second quarter of the school year.

The King's Academy will continue to serve our families with a commitment to our mission and the safety of each student in mind. We will continue to encourage our students in their relationship with Christ and equip them to fulfill God's calling for their lives. No matter what the format of instructional delivery, we will pursue our goals through biblically integrated lessons, focus groups, small group chapels, loving relationships, as well as creative programming. We are confident in the Lord's protection and provision for His people.

Our first day of school is coming soon, and we cannot wait to safely welcome our students, faculty, and staff back to King's 60 beautiful acres at the corner of Belvedere and Sansbury's Way. Our hope is that TKA students would once again enjoy the excellence that TKA offers in an in-person learning environment while minimizing risk. We know that it is impossible to eliminate all risk, so please join us in remaining vigilant and in constant prayer for The King's Academy. As always, TKA prays asking our King to continue to protect and guide us. The Lord has been faithful for 50 years, and we will continue to trust in Him for this coming school year.

Sincerely,



Randal L. Martin
President