

COVID-19 Community Updates:

July 22

We are so appreciative of your patience and encouragement over the last several months as we have juggled the Covid-19 restrictions affecting fall classes coordinated by FLA. The response to our Fall 2020 Covid Planning Survey was overwhelming. Thank you for your valuable insight. We hear you and share your goals and concerns.

Our first choice is to return to in-person, classroom learning as soon as safely and feasibly possible. We miss your kids and want to be with them in person as soon as we can! Our mission remains the same. FLA is committed to serving the homeschool community by coordinating high quality enrichment classes taught by qualified, talented professionals who love your kids. Unfortunately, due to circumstances beyond our control, the way we serve you this fall will need to be different.

We are at the mercy of charter school mandates, state and local government guidelines, and facility use requirements. One large charter school has already reported that they will not fund in-person classes in the fall, and we have been told that others are likely to follow. Over the past several weeks, the restrictions mandated by state and local authorities regarding the use of church facilities, masks, social distancing, and gatherings of any kind have greatly increased. As the pandemic surges and counties shut down more services, we realize that in-person classes would not be sustainable at this time.

Therefore, after careful consideration, we have made the prayerful and difficult decision to offer only remote classes fall semester. While we are disappointed, we are focusing on what we can do, rather than what we cannot and are optimistic that traditional classes will return in Spring 2021.

Do not worry! Our amazing vendors have been diligently working on rewriting curriculum and creating lesson plans that will engage, stimulate, and educate your children in new ways through creative combinations of recorded lessons and live online classes. While vendors were unexpectedly forced to move their lessons online last Spring, they now have time to prepare a superior online learning environment for your kids. We believe you will be impressed by many of the new and exciting classes on the Fall 2020 schedule.

Here are some benefits you can look forward to:

- Due to overwhelming demand, we have added advanced classes to serve accelerated middle school and high school students.
- We are also in the process of adding classes designed specifically to meet the needs of students who are on the spectrum, or simply struggle academically and/or socially.
- We have streamlined the distance learning process and created an online schedule similar to our regular enrollment, so your child can take all their FLA classes in one day if they wish.
- We are able to offer live classes more days during the week, and a variety of recorded classes that can be viewed at your pace and convenience.

- We will be designing a Remote Learning Hub on our website with links to all the information you need for each class. Everything you need will be organized in one easily accessed location.
- Online classes will have a lower enrollment cap to ensure personalized instruction.
- Students will be provided all materials needed for the semester through teacher-generated packets made available for all classes at the same time through an organized, drive-by, pick-up day.
-

The online class schedule will be posted to the FLA website on Monday, July 27, with registration opening for returning families on Friday, July 31st. New families are invited to begin registration on August 3rd. Classes begin September 15th.

Please carefully review the class descriptions to ensure the course meets your homeschooling needs and reach out to the vendor with any specific questions. We want this to be an amazing experience for your students, and we look forward to connecting with them soon!

May 13

Together, we have made it to the end of the Spring 2020 semester! The outpouring of support from the FLA community as the classes transitioned to a remote format has been humbling. We are incredibly grateful for the love and support you have shown to us and to your vendors. The students have proven themselves to be amazingly flexible and resilient during this uncertain and disruptive time.

Many of you are asking yourselves, “What will classes look like next fall?” We want to assure you the mission of FLA remains the same, we are here to support parents by organizing superior enrichment and supplemental classes for homeschooling families. We are continuing to carefully follow developing national, state, and local restrictions and recommendations for classroom style learning. We are working diligently toward the goal of resuming in person, hands on, project based classes in the fall; however, we know the structure and delivery of those classes will likely be different as we follow health department and facility guidelines.

While life and classes will look different until the risk from COVID-19 passes, we remain committed to providing your students a safe and enriching classroom experience. Due to the ever evolving environment, we are currently unable to create a clear plan for class structure and registration. Our goal is to present the fall plan and schedule mid July, open registration shortly thereafter, and begin Fall semester as planned in September.

Please keep an eye out for details to follow, including a parent survey to help us determine which type of classes will best support your homeschooling plan during the pandemic.

FLA will be officially closed for the month of June to allow us to focus on Fall 2020.

We look forward to the time when we can safely gather and learn together.

April 14

We hope this email finds you and your family safe and healthy. In the midst of these unprecedented circumstances, we want to say thank you. As our vendors have been busy these past few weeks recording lessons, creating take-home packets, and hosting Zoom meetings for our students, your encouraging texts, emails, and never-ending support have been greatly appreciated. FLA is truly blessed to serve such amazing parents and students.

During this time, we have also been eagerly planning and crafting an amazing fall program and have been looking forward to sharing it with you. Our original intent was to release the fall schedule on April 15th, with re-enrollment opening May 1st.

However, in light of the ever changing pandemic response, we have decided to postpone the fall enrollment process. This pause will allow us to better assess government policies and recommendations for safely reopening classes in the fall. As soon as national, state and local guidelines for the fall are clear, we will know better how to proceed. So, please keep an eye out for forthcoming email updates on the enrollment process.

We all long to be back together again. Therefore, as soon as it is safe to do so and group gatherings are permitted, FLA is planning a HUGE community park day where students can reconnect with their friends and teachers.

We look forward to the future and to seeing you soon!

April 7

We hope and pray this email finds you and those you love healthy, happy, and safe. This has been a crazy few weeks for our vendors, families, and students as we have worked hard to adjust to online curriculum and classes. Thank you for your overwhelming encouragement, support, and photos! We have so enjoyed seeing your kiddos learning online with us.

When classes ended three weeks ago, we took our spring break early and scheduled two weeks of remote teaching with a plan to return to classes on April 7th. Unfortunately, since that time, the measures put in place by our local, state, and national government to “flatten the curve” and protect as many as possible from contracting Covid-19, have made our return to classroom teaching impossible.

Foothill Learning Academy will continue teaching classes remotely through the end of this semester. The majority of classes will continue as they have for the past two weeks. If there are any changes to this plan, you will be contacted by your teacher.

Please keep your eye out for information about our upcoming fall schedule. We know this challenging season will pass, so we are in the process of planning an amazing fall schedule and look forward to opening registration in the coming weeks.

While we wish nothing more than to see all your kids in person and engage them in “hands-on” classroom activities, our utmost concern is that each and every member of our FLA family remains healthy and safe. So, we do what we must in these unprecedented times. Again, we

cannot say enough how much we have appreciated your patience, support, and words of encouragement. Please let us know if there is a way we can better support you and your kiddos over the next few weeks.

March 16

Our hearts and prayers are with all those severely affected by the Covid-19 virus, and with all of us trying to cope with the impact on our daily lives. The vast majority of the states have closed their public schools and millions of American students are experiencing homeschooling for the first time. This is an unprecedented national emergency.

This week is FLA's Spring Break, which allows vendors time to prepare for the future. In the next few days you will receive emails from your students' teachers outlining their plans for the coming weeks. While a few classes may be cancelled (crediting back a portion of your voucher), most vendors will either strive to hold make-up classes in the future, or offer their classes remotely through video recordings, zoom class meetings, and online applications. Of course, you may choose to opt out of remote instruction, but before you make that decision, please carefully weigh the impact on your vendors. This is not the first choice for any of us. All of our vendors would rather be meeting weekly with your kids in a classroom environment, yet that is simply not an option at this time. Our teachers want nothing more than to provide high quality instruction to your students, and are working very hard to make their remote lessons creative, engaging, and educationally valuable. The truth is, many of our vendors rely on the income from your charter schools to pay their bills. Therefore, it is our prayer that students will participate in remotely offered classes. Together, caring for one another, we can all get through this.

It is our greatest hope to return to normal classroom operation as planned, the week of April 7th. However, we also recognize that many experts expect this crisis to continue for 8-12 weeks and perhaps longer. We will continue to closely monitor the professional recommendations and respond accordingly. Your kids are our first priority, and we are hopeful this will be a blessing in disguise as we get to participate with your kids in new avenues of learning.

We are grateful for your support and encouragement during this time of transition. May you experience peace, health, and safety in the weeks to come.

March 11

We have carefully followed the development of the coronavirus pandemic. While the risk of transmission of the virus in our area is currently low, we want to ensure we are being proactive in ensuring the safety of our students and vendors.

As you may have already heard, in response to the coronavirus, one local charter school has suspended all school activities for the month of March to ensure the safety of their students. Their students are not allowed to use instructional funds for any educational enrichment (including FLA classes) at this time. Other charter schools are expected to follow.

We have explored various options to continue to provide our students with high quality educational services. After much prayer, research, and reflection, we have determined that our best option is to revise the current FLA academic calendar as follows:

- We will move up our scheduled Spring Break to next week, March 17-20th. We will finish out this week, teaching our scheduled classes on Thursday and Friday.
- We will deliver classes remotely, for two weeks, from March 24 -April 3rd.
- Classroom instruction will tentatively resume on April 7th and continue through the end of the semester.
- In the event that one or more charter schools prohibit students from attending classes and/or the situation otherwise dictates, we will continue to provide remote instruction through the end of the semester. April 7 - May 1.

We had hoped to avoid remote delivery of content and simply extend our semester later into May, but, unfortunately, the classrooms we use are not available so that is not an option. While it is not our first choice, you can be sure that the quality and content of instruction you have come to expect from FLA will remain the same. Our vendors will be working hard to provide your child the best possible online experience through video lessons and creative online interaction.

Each individual teacher will be reaching out to you next week to explain their plan for remote instruction. Unfortunately, some classes due to their unique nature require personal instruction and those classes may be cancelled by the vendor until in-person classes resume. This information will come directly from your vendor.

Our hearts are heavy with the circumstances and adjustments we now face. We are grateful for your support and encouragement during this time of transition and we apologize for any inconvenience. Your kids are our first priority, and we are hopeful this will be an exciting and wonderful opportunity for our entire community to gain valuable 21st century skills.

Our primary object remains the safety of our students, and we are thankful for your flexibility.