



**ReOpening Recommendations 2020**

## **ReOpening Restrictions & Considerations**

- No gatherings of 50 people or more
- Only 50% of room capacity allowed
- Frequent hand washing
- Face masks required for students 10 and older
- Classrooms sanitized daily or twice daily\*
- No parent volunteers allowed on-site during phase 2
- Daily temperature checks prior to entering

## OPTION 1: Rotating All-Day Sessions

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Student Cohort A					
Student Cohort B					
Student Cohort C					

Specials delivered online (Asynchronous), Core Content deliver via synchronous online instruction. Potential for lessons to be recorded for asynchronous viewing.

## Parent Perspective

### Pros:

- Full-day; no mid-day pick-up / drop-off
- Minimal online work for full-day school days
- Less contact w/ other students

### Cons:

- Heavy (3+ hours) of online learning requirements for non-school days
- Increased student & parent accountability
- Technology/internet access concerns
- Long periods in the classroom

## Teacher Perspective

### Pros:

- No creation of online content for science / history
- Child care for teacher's children
- Leadership Instruction

### Cons:

- Simultaneously trying to control 15 students in-class and 15 online.
- Setting up synchronous Zoom broadcasts / tech issues.
- Students falling behind / poor performance.
- Transferring recordings online / Work Load

## Additional Considerations

- Lunch would have to be served in classrooms
- Recess time limited, very structured
- Extended periods of exposure if a student is ill.
- GATE & SPED service delivery may be more complicated.

## OPTION 2: Half - Day Sessions

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Student Cohort A	 8:00 am - 11:00 am 	 8:00 am - 11:00 am 	 8:00 am - 11:00 am 	 8:00 am - 11:00 am 	 8:00 am - 11:00 am 
Student Cohort B	  12:15 pm - 3:15 pm	  12:15 pm - 3:15 pm	  12:15 pm - 3:15 pm	  12:15 pm - 3:15 pm	  12:15 pm - 3:15 pm
Student Cohort C					

Specials, science, & history delivered online (Asynchronous). Math & Reading delivered live in-class.

## Parent Perspective

### Pros:

- Minimal online work, mostly asynchronous
- Daily school = improved learning
- Reduced technology requirements

### Cons:

- Daycare Options & transportation concerns

## Teacher Perspective

### Pros:

- Reduced technology requirements
- Daily contact with students
- Control over core content delivery
- Increased likelihood of student success

### Cons:

- Creation of online content for science / history
- Child care for teacher's children

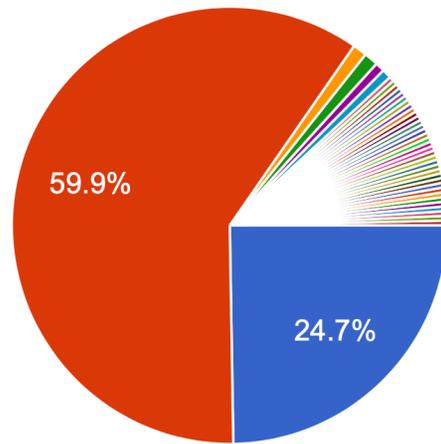
## Additional Considerations

- No lunch served
- Rooms have to be sanitized between AM and PM sessions
- Overall, more Champions capacity via this option.
- Ability to offer GATE and SPED services during lunch period or off-schedule period

# PARENT SURVEY

Which Re-Opening Plan do you prefer?

287 responses



- Option 1: Alternating full days of...
- Option 2: Daily half-day sessions
- Online
- Online classes
- Home school
- On line school
- Stay with home learning
- None



# 2020-21 Re-opening Plan

Aligned to Guidelines & Recommendation from the Center for Disease Control, Southern Nevada Health District, and Nevada Department of Education

# FREEDOM CLASSICAL ACADEMY

KNOWLEDGE | FREEDOM | LEADERSHIP

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## Communication

Freedom Classical Academy understands the importance of ongoing communication during these challenging times. For this reason, we have engaged and will continue to engage in ongoing efforts to facilitate bilateral communication between the school and its stakeholders.

## Surveys

Freedom Classical Academy (FCA) understands that education is a partnership between a school and its community including: parents, guardians, students, teachers, staff, businesses, and community members. As such, FCA values the unique perspectives and ideas that each group brings to the table. In order to facilitate stakeholder feedback in the development of this plan, FCA distributed two formal surveys to the school community prior to its proposal to the Board of Directors. The first survey was administered in May of 2020 and assessed stakeholder's feeling in regards to returning to school. From this survey we learned several important key statistics:

- Over 75% of respondents work 3 or more days a week outside of the home
- Of all re-opening options presented, the most favored was a full-time return to school
- When school resumed, the safety factors most important to respondents were limiting classroom seating and enforcing regular handwashing
- Nearly 24% of respondents felt "not at all" or only "slightly" prepared to participate in distance education.

These responses were instrumental in influencing the development of two different re-opening plans that were proposed to the FCA Board of Directors on July 15, 2020. Prior to the presentation to the Board, the Executive Director of FCA recorded a video presentation of the two plans that was distributed to school stakeholders for their review. A second survey was included with distribution once again asking stakeholders to provide their feedback on the proposed plans. From that survey it was ascertained that over 60% of respondents preferred Option B: Daily Half-Day Sessions while 25% preferred a plan similar to that adopted to CCSD and 15% wanted an all-online. These results were included in the presentation to the Board of Directors on July 15<sup>th</sup> in order to ensure that stakeholder feedback was adequately considered.

This history serves to ensure that FCA is comfortable utilizing surveys as a method to solicit feedback and will utilize them throughout the school year to certify that school stakeholders continue to have a strong voice.

## Committees

FCA has had a Parent Advisory Committee since its inception and recently formed a re-opening committee. These committees provide another avenue of bilateral

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communication between school leadership and school stakeholders and will continue to play an important role moving forward.

## Social Media

FCA has an official school Facebook Page and provides updates and information on that page. There is also an unofficial Families of FCA Facebook Page operated by parents that provides ongoing dialogue between FCA Staff and Stakeholders. These portals will be utilized both to communicate the re-opening process as well as any developments that happen during the school year. This format also lends itself to video tutorials regarding procedures on how to protect oneself and others.

## School Newsletters

School newsletters are one of the primary forms of communication for the school. The school newsletter has the broadest distribution list of all of forms of communication and is highly accessible. FCA utilizes MailChimp as our newsletter platform and a sign-up form to the newsletter is hosted prominently on the front page of the school's website. Typically, school newsletters are sent on a monthly basis but may be sent more regularly based on special circumstances. Newsletters are formatted to be accessible from both computers and mobile devices and whenever a newsletter goes out a link to it is posted on the Families of FCA social media page to ensure broader distribution. Newsletters allow for more detail than social media posts and may include articles, links, attachments, videos, and more.

## Infinite Campus

For important/essential school communications, Infinite Campus messages are sent out. This ensures that the parents or guardians of all enrolled students receive the communication. FCA pays for the add-on capacity to make robo-calls to families in the event of an emergency, but this capability is used only for emergencies. Usually, Infinite Campus communications are duplicated on other platforms such as social media and school newsletters.

## School Website

Information pertaining to the re-opening of school, safety precautions, and new developments will also be posted on the school's website. The Meeting Notice & Agenda for the Board Meeting where the re-opening plan was adopted was linked prominently on the front page of the website to ensure everyone could find it. This document as well as any other information pertaining to re-opening will be hosted on a new re-opening page with a link available on the front page of the website. Important documents will also be translated and posted in Spanish to ensure that EL populations have equal access to information.

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## Communication Apps

FCA will utilize a classroom communication app such as ClassTag in order to provide more daily information to families. These apps have the capacity to translate messages into multiple languages in real time and the pithy nature of communication fosters greater readership. The bulk of information communication through these apps will come from the classroom or content-area teacher, but the school will also have the ability to make school-wide announcements as necessary.

In all, FCA utilizes a number of tools to communicate with our stakeholders. It is our goal to communicate changes and developments to our stakeholders as quickly as possible. We enjoy positive two-way communication with our parents, teachers, and students on an ongoing basis and do not expect this to change. We understand that communication will facilitate the many adjustments and accommodations that will be required during the coming school year and are committed to providing ongoing communication for the achievement of these ends.

## Re-Opening School Buildings

### School Format

For the 2020-21 school year Freedom Classical Academy will employ a blended learning model as well as an all-online model of learning.

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Student Cohort A	 8:00 am - 11:00 am 	 8:00 am - 11:00 am 	 8:00 am - 11:00 am 	 8:00 am - 11:00 am 	 8:00 am - 11:00 am 
Student Cohort B	  12:15 pm - 3:15 pm	  12:15 pm - 3:15 pm	  12:15 pm - 3:15 pm	  12:15 pm - 3:15 pm	  12:15 pm - 3:15 pm
Student Cohort C					

Specials, science, & history delivered online (Asynchronous). Math & Reading delivered live in-class.

### Blended Learning

In the blended learning model, students will attend school for three hours a day. The school day will be bisected into an AM session and a PM session, students will be

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assigned into one of these sessions. The AM session will occur from 8:00am till 11:00am. The PM session will occur from 12:15pm till 3:15pm. The time spent on-campus will be focused on learning mathematics and language arts. All other subjects including science, history, PE, technology, and music will be hosted online. For the 2020-21 school year only, art will not be offered as an elective.

Online courses will be accessed through Canvas learning management system. Students will be required to sign in daily to complete assignments and tasks. Students will be required to submit assignments by the listed due dates and may lose credit for assignments not turned in on time. Students caught cheating or plagiarizing will be subject to loss of points for the assignments and potential disciplinary action. Please refer to the Student Handbook for more information regarding the school's late work policy and academic integrity policy.

## *All-Online Learning*

For students with compromised immune systems or those who otherwise elect to do so, an all-online option will be available. For students participating in this format, instruction in math and language arts will be synchronous with live classroom learning and all other subject delivered asynchronously. Live lessons will be recorded for later viewing, but it is the responsibility of the student to watch the videos and complete the assignments within the designated timeframe. Each online student must attend at least one online meeting with their teacher per week.

## **School Calendar**

In order to facilitate the demands of increased teacher training, FCA will postpone the first day of school by five days until August 17, 2020. From August 10 - 15, teachers will receive intensive training in online/blended learning and also be provided time to develop online content. Other than this change, the school calendar will remain as previously proposed and adopted with five additional days of professional development provided throughout the school year.

## **Session Assignment**

FCA understands the importance of assigning students into AM or PM cohorts. Unfortunately, it is not plausible to meet the demands of all families given the limited spaces available in each cohort. In order to fairly allocate cohort assignments, session assignments will be allocated based on a lottery system. Within that system, special populations will be given priority to ensure that their required services are met. Every attempt will be made to keep all members of a family or household together. Once lottery priority is established, families will be asked to make their first choice for session assignment. If that option is no longer available, they will automatically be placed in the opposite session.

Families that wish to take advantage of all-online learning will be able to self-identify via a survey prior to the lottery.

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## Stage 3 – Full Day

When it is possible and under the guidance of the Nevada Department of Education and the Southern Nevada Health District, FCA will return to school full time with safeguards in place. More details regarding this plan will become available as it becomes more of a viable option. For now, blended and online learning will be the standard.

## Return to Full Online

Under current circumstances, it is hard to predict the path this school year will take. If the current COVID-19 crisis increases and emergency edict by the Governor demands it, FCA will be prepared to return to full online learning. It is also possible that the school may have to temporarily resort to full-online learning if there is a confirmed case of COVID-19 on campus. This will only be done so if it is advised by the Southern Nevada Health District and deemed in the best interest of staff and students. If this becomes necessary, students will refer to Canvas to access their courses. Math and Language Arts may still be offered via synchronous instruction with teachers working from home and students learning from home. Should this potentiality become required, additional instructions will be released via the communication portals listed above.

## Physical Health Screening

Students attending school on-campus will be required to submit to temperature scans prior to entering the building. Temperature will be taken with no-touch thermal scanners. Students exhibiting a temperature of 100.4 degrees or higher will be required to return home. Students exhibiting other COVID symptoms such as cough, shortness of breath, fatigue, sore throat, nausea, vomiting, etc may also be sent home or restricted from entering the facility. Students that willingly manipulate or bypass the screening process may be subject to disciplinary action up to and including expulsion.

Staff will also be subject to health screening on a regular basis. At the school's request and at the school's cost, school staff may be required to be tested for COVID-19. All school staff will be subject to temperature scans as well.

## Physical Hygiene

Pursuant to Emergency Directive 024, all students and staff 10 years of age and above will be required to wear appropriate face coverings. As outlined in Emergency Directive 024, this provision shall not apply to:

1. Children who are nine years of age, or younger. Children who are two to nine years of age are strongly encouraged to wear face coverings in public spaces.
2. Individuals experiencing homelessness. Such individuals are encouraged to take protective measures to the greatest extent practicable.
3. Individuals who cannot wear a face covering due to a medical condition or disability, or who are unable to remove a mask without assistance. Persons exempted under this provision should wear a non-restrictive alternative, such as

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a face shield. Persons exempted under this provision shall not be required to produce documentation verifying the condition.

All staff and students will receive updated training in proper handwashing and hand-sanitization techniques. Hand sanitation stations with COVID-19 killing agent will be placed in each classroom. Teachers will develop classroom procedures for the use of hand sanitizer upon entering the classroom and as necessary thereafter.

## **Social Distancing**

In correspondence with the Path Forward Framework and existing Emergency Directives, FCA will maintain 50% or less occupancy of all rooms and no groups greater than 50 in any space. Students will be spaced from each other in the classroom to minimize the spread of germs and cooperative learning strategies minimized to prevent contact. This includes rug activities that would regularly occur in primary grade levels.

Students will be trained in new procedures for walking in the hallways that provide for social distancing. These will include leaving space between each student and walking on opposing sides of the hallway from other classes.

The half-day model adopted by the school facilitates social distancing by eliminating school lunch periods, in-person specials, and recesses wherein students would come into contact with each other.

School leadership assemblies will be performed electronically or cancelled in order to avoid unnecessary contact.

## **Human Resources**

### **Return to Work**

Staff will return to work three weeks prior to the commencement of work for professional development. Professional development activities will be conducted in small groups, always less than 50 and no more than 50% the capacity of the space of where they are meeting. Teachers will be required to wear face coverings while in group settings.

Accommodations for vulnerable populations will be made as necessary and possible. Where feasible, vulnerable staff will be allowed to work remotely. Employees may also be granted additional unpaid leave if they contract COVID-19 or are exhibiting symptoms. Other accommodations and adjustments could be made based on individual circumstances and school resources.

FCA will continue to recruit substitute teachers to cover for teachers that may be ill or exhibiting symptoms. FCA is also prepared to temporarily reallocate members of administrative staff to classrooms to fill emergency vacancies.

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## Governing Body

The Governing Board for FCA will continue to receive updates from the Executive Director regarding school re-opening and any potential problems. These updates will occur via email and during scheduled Board Meetings to ensure all members are up-to-date on school happenings.

If a change in policy is required, an emergency board meeting will be called and the issue addressed in the quickest manner possible. School leadership has developed a great working relationship with members of the Board and their feedback is always welcome and incorporated into the decision-making process.

## Logistics

### Facilities Management

The Freedom Classical Academy maintenance and custodial crew have been working tirelessly throughout the summer to ensure that our facility is ready for the coming school year.

This process began with the hiring of John Felipe as our Head Custodian. Mr. Felipe has extensive experience in facilities management including several years in hospital facilities management. He is extremely well versed in sanitization and disinfection techniques as well as OSHA standards. He has spent the summer training our other custodial staff and completing the installation PPE equipment that will mitigate the risk to staff and guests of the school. This equipment includes the addition of screens in the nurses' office to provide for student quarantine, the addition of splash guards in the front office and creation of portable splash guards for meetings and service delivery, as well as several other projects.

The Custodial staff have reviewed CDC guidelines and creates plans for the daily sanitation and disinfection of the school. All classrooms desks and doorknobs will be cleaned between the AM and PM sessions using chemicals approved by the CDC to kill COVID-19. Middle School classrooms will be cleaned four times a day to ensure students have less risk of sitting in another student's germs. All classrooms will be cleaned again in the evening in preparation for the following day.

Playground equipment and areas and non-essential areas that would serve to spread germs will be closed during Phase 2 of the COVID crisis. Restrooms will be cleaned mid-day and again in the evenings.

Classroom layout and décor will be specified by administration to maximize social distancing between students and minimize surfaces for exposure. Classroom libraries and other assets that are often handled by multiple students will be restricted to avoid possibility of spreading germs. Strict classroom organization and cleanliness guidelines will be enforced.

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## **Nutrition Services**

Freedom Classical Academy does not participate in the USDA Free and Reduced Lunch Program and therefore will not be providing a formal lunch period. This will help eliminate the spread of germs.

FCA is working with our cafeteria services provider to ascertain their desire to provide to-go sack lunches to those that would like to purchase them. These conversations are just commencing and the outcome is yet to be determined.

## **Arrival & Dismissal**

FCA will spread out the drop-off and pick-up areas to provide more space between classes and reduce the opportunity for exposure. With only half of the students attending school at any given time, there will be more room to spread out.

At drop off, students will get their temperature scanned before their parents leave in order to ensure that sick students are not left at the school. Once students are dropped off, they will report directly to their classes.

## **Athletics & Extra-Curriculars**

FCA will participate in the NCSAA sports provided in the fall which only include outside sports. All clubs and other extra-curriculars except tutoring will be cancelled.

All balls and sporting equipment will be cleaned between use. Coaches will be trained in sanitation techniques as well as the additional safety precautions required by COVID-19. These precautions include social distancing when possible, face masks when not practicing or playing, and closed practices.

## **Information Technology**

FCA currently has over 200 Chromebooks that can be checked out to parents for use during blended learning. School administration has also tried to write additional technological resources into grant applications.

Prior to the commencement of the school year FCA will distribute another survey to school families. This survey will seek to understand families' access to technology and internet. FCA will seek ESSER funds to expand internet and hardware access to families that do not currently possess such access.

In the interim, students that do not have access to internet at home will be given paper assignments in lieu of online assignments.

## **Wellness & Recovery**

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## Social-Emotional Learning

FCA will provide ongoing support to staff, students and families for their social and emotional needs. FCA will proactively encourage every person on campus to talk with people they trust about their feelings and concerns. FCA leadership will work to build strong relationships with staff, students, and families. It will be important for FCA to consider educators who have experienced hardships during this time due to health concerns, personal losses and other factors. For students, it will be important for staff to recognize which students have more significant needs that require a more immediate response, as well as students who have emerging symptoms that require monitoring over time. FCA has to work and make decisions with these social emotional needs in mind.

FCA will use these tier 1 trauma-informed practices & interventions including positive self-talk, and reflection meetings.

For more advanced needs, FCA will employ a licensed social worker to meet with students one-on-one and in small group settings to work through problems, provide coping strategies and supports, and help foster positive mental attitudes. Where necessary, parents and/or additional professional assistance will be procured to ensure the safety and well-being of the student.

The Dean of Students and Social Worker will coordinate efforts to create proactive plans for students focused on the principles of restorative justice. When necessary, a behavior contract will be put into place and supports given to help students meet expectations. Teachers may also receive additional coaching and support to better deal with challenging students and avoid escalating situations unnecessarily.

## Academics

Freedom Classical Academy understands the importance of maintaining academic rigor and excellence amidst these challenging times. School administration has consulted research, teachers, and other educators to identify the path forward that would best predict student success.

## Instructional Approach

As outlined in the [School Format](#) section above, FCA will utilize both a blended learning option as well as an all-online option.

Both options will use both synchronous and asynchronous learning. Those participating in blended learning will receive math and language arts instruction in-person in the classroom. Those that choose the all-online option will receive the same instruction via synchronous online learning. Essentially, students learning from home will be able to participate in the classroom remotely using video conferencing software. This allows the student to still receive some measure of the social-emotional benefits of being part of a classroom cohort. These lessons will also be recorded for asynchronous viewing

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should the student not be able to view them live due to technological limitation or health concerns.

To facilitate synchronous online instruction, FCA has purchased several LCD televisions and mounted them on mobile carts. Computers and web cameras will be added to these carts and the cart will be setup facing the teacher. The larger format of the television will enable the teacher to see the online students while also continuing live instruction in the classroom. Where possible, all online students will be assigned to one teacher who will specialize in online instruction and be able to cater to the needs of those students better.

All other subjects will be delivered online via asynchronous instruction. This will allow students to login to the Learning Management System and complete assignments on their own time table, insomuch as they complete them by the required due dates.

As mentioned above, students that are not able to access online learning due to technological limitations will be distributed paper assignments which may include textbooks, novels, and other resources.

Teachers will be on campus from 7:30am till 3:30pm, per their contract hours. Teachers are accessible via email and through parent communication apps. Teachers will not be required to respond to parent inquiries after 5pm in order to preserve their personal lives.

## Meeting Student Needs

The blended model selected by FCA was chosen in part due to its increased flexibility in working with our most vulnerable populations. Since students will be attending school every day, students with required services under their IEPs may be scheduled more easily to receive those services on site. Accommodations for our most vulnerable students are already being put into place with a combination of at-home online learning and early-morning service delivery to avoid contact with other students.

By providing Math and Language Arts instruction in person, teachers accommodate EL students by emphasizing academic vocabulary and providing individualized support as necessary. Additionally, FCA is utilizing Title III funds to continue Fast ForWord, an online Language Arts program that has proven effective in helping EL students develop essential language skills.

School administration will distribute a survey in the fall and again in the spring to ascertain the degree to which our special populations feel supported and to solicit feedback on how we can better support them. The results of the survey will be combined with teacher feedback to make any necessary adjustments.

## Attendance & Engagement

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Students opting for blended learning will have attendance taken in class each day. If they are not able to make it to school due to a health condition, they will be counted present if they communicate with the teacher and log into the LMS (if possible).

Students opting for the all-online option will take attendance during synchronous online learning. Students will also have the option to complete a task in the LMS to prove attendance for a given day if they are not able to participate in the synchronous instruction for any reason.

Students receiving paper materials for remote instruction will be counted present if they have contact with the teacher no less than once a week.

FCA will continue to follow all guidance to guidelines issued by NDE regarding attendance.

## Professional Learning

Teachers at Freedom Classical Academy will receive up to four full weeks of professional development before the commencement of the 2021 school year. Professional development will include training in:

- school curriculum
- school pedagogy
- teaching skills
- classroom management techniques
- room décor and sanitation guidelines
- school safety protocols (social distancing, masks, hand washing, etc)
- technology platforms including LMS, SIS, content creation apps, video conferencing, etc.
- curriculum mapping & pacing
- school policies & procedures
- restorative practices & de-escalation techniques
- emergency response
- content creation
- parent communication standards and platforms

Training will be offered in small groups and in online modules to minimize risk of exposure to teachers during training.

Freedom Classical Academy is requesting five additional days of professional development from August 10-August 15 to enable additional training in online platforms and the provision of time for the creation of online content prior to the commencement of the school year.

## Supporting Parents & Families

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Freedom Classical Academy will make available our supply of Chromebooks to facilitate online learning at home. Chromebooks will be checked out on a needs basis.

FCA also included in our original ESSER grant application \$10,000 in school supplies for families impacted by the current COVID-19 Crisis. These funds will be utilized to purchase backpacks, notebooks, pencils, and all other back to school supplies required. These supplies will be provided to students at a free or reduced rate based on need.