

Dear FLAME Families and Teachers,

We want to thank you for taking time to fill out the parent survey that was sent out and/or taking time to talk with Parent Advisory Committee (PAC) members about your plans.

We also want to give you an update on our status, in light of this COVID-19 situation. The current FLAME PAC members have been working very hard planning for a fall start to our 2020-2021 year. Although we have considered online classes, virtual classes are proving not to be a conducive option with the kinds of classes we offer. Our teaching staff have wonderful on-site curricula planned! We are going to take a break from photography this year and offer a new watercolor art class for adults.

The FLAME PAC has met with a Dane County Public Health representative and an attorney. There are many legal and logistical details that need to be honored to make on site learning work; and we are making every effort to cover all of our bases in the planning process. While we realize most schools in the area are planning online classes in the fall, we want to reassure you that some private schools in the area are planning to have on site classes starting this fall. FLAME has been given the green light to meet in person - with policies, cleaning, and safety procedures in place. Some specific changes we plan to implement include: at home temperature checks; physical distancing; providing a COVID-19 space for those exhibiting symptoms; mask wearing if still needed; students staying in classrooms and teachers rotating in; 30 minute breaks in respective classrooms between classes for cleaning, setting up, socializing, eating, bathroom visits, etc.

We do recognize, however, that with FLAME being a co-op, enrollment and participation are imperative for FLAME to continue. At this time, our numbers for potential enrollment are lower than our current budget can cover; and we are also being presented with the possibility of losing our rental status with Life Center. Life Center staff has reassured us that we have been given priority, but if we do not meet in person in the fall, there is a possibility we will be pushed out by another group wanting to rent from Life Center on Fridays in our spaces as well. And in all honesty, it took a very long time and many church visits to find a facility that meets our needs as well as Life Center does. If FLAME does not meet in the fall, we may have to scramble to find a new location, which would be very hard to do. While it is imperative that you understand the serious nature this situation puts on the continuation of FLAME's operations and its rental arrangement with Life Center, we do not want any parent or student to feel obligated to register; each parent and student must do what they feel is right for their personal situation.

We are drafting and presenting COVID-19 policies/pertinent information with important dates (subject to change) on our website (www.homeschoolflame.org - Please visit for more details). Our enrollment numbers will determine the course of FLAME. If enrollment numbers fall below what our minimum expenses require, FLAME may have to take a year off. Of course, it is our desire to see FLAME continue, but we also recognize that FLAME is the Lord's; and we are entrusting the organization to His care and keeping. Thank you for your prayerful consideration of joining FLAME for in person classes; and please feel free to let other home school families know about the opportunity of joining this art, music, and drama enrichment program. **Registration will open August 19, 2020 and close August 31, 2020.**

Trusting God for His will to be done,

The FLAME Parent Advisory Committee –

Annette Mathews – Chair

Daris Schaeffer – Treasurer

Cheryl Gahan – Secretary

Kristy Rewey – Vice Chair

Kristen Kroll – Member at Large