Dear Parents and rising 6th Grade students,

The ability to touch type is an important skill in the middle school. Due to time constraints, we are unable to spend class time mastering the keyboard. Therefore, it is important for the students to learn this on their own. Friends Academy subscribes to an online typing program, Typing Pal, that students can access from any home computer. It is our goal for students to learn the keyboard and become as proficient as possible before the start of school (20 wpm with 80% accuracy). Directions to log on to the web site are below. I also have access to their progress. Ideally, covering the keyboard with stickers, or making a keyboard cover out of cardboard, helps students refrain from looking at the keys. Should you experience technical difficulties logging on, please email me at clare_nesfield@fa.org, Ken Ambach at ken_ambach@fa.org, or Rob Grella at rob_grella@fa.org

Touch Typing. Touch typing improves typing speed and accuracy. A touch typist never looks at the keyboard. The fingers hit the right keys by force of habit. The typist is entirely focused on the text being typed, reading the words and phrases as the fingers type the text reflexively.

Directions:

Using Google Chrome, go to http://typingpal.com

Click on For Schools

Click on the Log In button (top right)

It will ask for the school, type: Friends Academy
The next screen will give you the opportunity to add the address to your favorites using CTRL + D
(The URL is http://friacade.typingpal.com  --  friacade is derived from the first three letters of
friends, and the first 5 letters of academy, hence friacade )

***  Student usernames are formatted:  2-digit class grad year + first five letters of their last
name + the first two letters of their first name.
eg: If I graduate in 2024, Clare Nesfield’s username would be 24nesficl

*** Since we are using usernames, do NOT log in with Google

*** All student passwords will be set to: friends19
*** Students can change the password once they log in.  Click on username on top right, then
click on settings