Remote Learning
An Update for our Students, Parents and Community

The COVID-19 pandemic has resulted in a new normal for the remainder of the 2019-2020 school year, but it does not mean learning will stop. The “classroom” looks and feels different now as students sit at their kitchens tables for instruction rather than at a school desk. This new learning environment requires we all remain flexible, patient and kind with one another while we navigate some unchartered territory for our school system. Our students are adapting very well, and we appreciate the way that all adults are modeling positivity, grit, critical and creative thinking, thoughtful responsiveness, and empathy to help our students grow personally and academically.

We understand there are many unanswered questions left by Governor Kemp’s order to end face-to-face instruction this school year as well as the ever-evolving guidance coming from health agencies and federal authorities. Fulton County Schools is continuing to work through these issues. However, some important decisions have been made and we want to share those. We will update this information as additional decisions and plans are finalized.

As always, the safety and well-being of our students and staff is paramount, and we will keep families and communities informed as we continue to address the impact of COVID-19.

Remaining Calendar Year and Last Day of School
Fulton County Schools will continue its five-day school week, and the last day of classes remains May 22 for all students except graduating seniors. The final day for Class of 2020 seniors is May 1. The Digital Learning Day scheduled for May 19 remains as a Remote Learning day for students.

Remote Learning Norms
Since 2018, Fulton County Schools (FCS) has had a set of prioritized curriculum standards for each core area of study. The prioritized standards are the most critical standards that a student must master in order to be prepared for the next school year or for graduation. During Remote Learning, class content will continue to be aligned to these standards and can be delivered online or via printed Learning Packets at 21 locations throughout the districts, the same sites used for food distribution.

Remote Learning Resources and Hotline
The district has created a Remote Learning webpage featuring a variety of links to district resources, technical guides and the FCS Remote Learning Hotline. The number is 470-254-2300, and it is open Monday through Friday, 9:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Grading Practices
The Georgia Department of Education has provided guidance that instruction modifications required during COVID-19 will not adversely impact students’ grades. Therefore, Fulton County Schools has adopted a “hold harmless” philosophy for grading and evaluating students’ final averages during Remote Learning.

- Student work submitted during Remote Learning will only count if it positively impacts a student’s overall grade as reflected on March 12, the last day of traditional instruction.
- However, if a student chooses to stop engaging in learning by completing less than 70% of the Remote Learning assignments, s/he will receive an “incomplete” and be required to attend summer school to ensure s/he does not fall behind.

Placement, Promotion and Retention
As is normal practice, students who have not demonstrated mastery of the curriculum standards may be retained. Student performance before Remote Learning will be the driving criteria for placement, promotion and retention, unless a student completes less than 70% of his/her Remote Learning assignments (see Grading Practices section). The instructional setting and placement for each student remains the responsibility of local schools and can be considered on a case-by-case basis within this guidance:

- Elementary Schools. Student placement as of March 12 will remain in place for the start of school in the fall. The district will provide guidance in the fall regarding any possible adjustments.
- Middle Schools. The placement recommendations made in January 2020 will remain in place for the fall. Students scheduled for advanced/accelerated
courses with incompletes must complete summer school to ensure placement.

- **High Schools.** The placement recommendations made in January 2020 will remain in place for the fall. Students scheduled for advanced/accelerated courses with incompletes must complete summer school to ensure placement. Additionally, students must successfully complete all prerequisite courses to ensure fall placement in the subsequent courses.

**Summer School**

FCS will provide summer learning opportunities for remediation, credit recovery or repeating failed classes. Summer school will be held as in previous years with virtual, blended, and face-to-face formats. There are two phases planned:

- Phase I – Virtual Summer School (June 3 to July 15)
- Phase II – Face-to-Face, Blended Learning and/or Virtual (July 7 to July 31). This phase would be dependent on Georgia’s shelter-in-place requirements.

**State Assessments and National Exams**

All state-required spring testing, such as GKIDS, Georgia Alternate Assessments, End-of-Pathway Assessments, and the Georgia Milestones’ End of Grade and End of Course tests are cancelled. IB Exams are also cancelled.

- The College Board will give Advanced Placement (AP) tests online.
- The SAT and ACT will communicate future testing dates through their websites.
- Seniors who wish to complete CTAE Pathway certification should contact their school to learn about certification options per each Pathway requirement.

**Graduation Ceremonies**

Regretfully, traditional graduation ceremonies or end-of-grade celebrations cannot be held before the end of school in May. All high schools are holding virtual celebrations. Additionally, schools can work with their stakeholders to develop community-sponsored celebrations with the understanding that health and safety guidance must be followed. Each school community is unique, so the local school should be contacted to learn about any plans.

**Returning to School to Drop Off Devices, Pick Up Belongings**

Schools will communicate how students can return their FCS-issued mobile devices, clear out any remaining end-of-year checklist items (i.e., returning library books, cleaning out lockers, etc.) and to pick up any personal belongings still left at school.

**Community-Based Resources for Students and Families**

FCS has compiled a listing of community-based resources for families who need help or who want to give help to their neighbors, including free internet service, food banks and mental health service agencies, on its Community Resources website. Our School Social Workers also are posting student needs to the “Purposity” site accessible through the community resources site. Purposity is a not-for-profit app that connects the physical needs of people with locals who want to help. This is great way families can get and give help while practicing social distancing and remaining at home.

**Social and Emotional Learning Support**

The school district has created a number of resources addressing the social and emotional needs of students and their families. Social and Emotional Learning lessons and resources for students in elementary, middle and high schools are available on the Remote Learning webpage and additional content is available in the “Connect with Kids” resource located in the Infinite Campus Parent Portal.

**Changes to Meal Distribution**

Fulton County Schools is now distributing weekly meal packages instead of preparing packages three times a week. This allows the district to continue feeding students while also keeping School Nutrition staff safe during distribution. Meal distributions will continue at all 21 locations posted on the school district’s COVID-19 website.

**Helpful FCS Links Mentioned in this Document**

- COVID-19 webpage: [www.fultonschools.org/coronavirus](http://www.fultonschools.org/coronavirus)
- Remote Learning: [www.fultonschools.org/remotelearning](http://www.fultonschools.org/remotelearning)
- Family Resources: [www.fultonschools.org/communityresources](http://www.fultonschools.org/communityresources)
- Meal Distributions: [www.fultonschools.org/meals](http://www.fultonschools.org/meals)