



Greenville County Public Schools COVID-19

The closing of schools due to the Coronavirus pandemic has left staff, students, and families with many questions regarding school-related operations and activities. Here are responses to a few of the commonly asked questions.

Please check back often as this page will be updated with the most current responses to questions that are important to you.

How do I contact my child's school?

As of right now, GCPS school buildings and offices are closed. However, beginning April 20th, administrators will be handling telephone coverage on each Monday and Wednesday from 10 – 1 at each school and from 9 – 2 at the central office. We are here to answer your questions. We know this is a time of uncertainty and we want to assist in relieving any stress and anxiety that we possibly can.

How will my child continue to learn during the 2019-2020 school year?

Seniors, we understand that you and your families are anxious and disappointed about the way the senior year has ended. To alleviate any fears, please know this -- if you were on track to graduate on Friday, March 13, 2020, you will be graduating this spring.

For those seniors who were not on track to graduate by Friday, March 13, you will be contacted by the high school counselors and administration on what work needs to be completed in order to graduate.

As for high school students who are not seniors and are failing a course, you will also be contacted by the high school counselors and administration on what work needs to be completed in order to pass the course.

Governor's School and Dual Enrollment students will also have specific work that must be completed in order to receive dual enrollment credit. If you haven't already, you will be hearing more from your teachers.

In regards to all other GCPS students, nongraded virtual learning will continue for the remainder of the school year.

Students and families should expect the following regarding continuity of learning:

When will online instruction begin?

Online instruction will begin Monday, April 20. Please note that while distance learning will not be equivalent to or structured as a typical 6-hour school day, we expect to maintain key aspects of the classroom experience: collaboration with peers, daily lessons and experimentation with individualized and innovative techniques.

Our distance learning model will be inclusive of a blend of approaches to learning activities; independent, self-paced work; virtual office hours to check for understanding and submission of assignments. This is to maintain an academic connection and flexibility for students, teachers, and families.

How are you ensuring all students can access the new distance learning model?

Teachers conducted a technology access survey through family contacts to identify students in need of devices and/or internet access to complete work from home. This information will be used to determine where hotspots need to be placed throughout the community and how many devices are needed.

Teachers are engaged in professional development to prepare virtual learning opportunities that will be pushed out on April 20th (after Spring Break).

What will day-to-day distance learning look like for students?

Each week, teachers will post their virtual weekly plan to google classroom and/or email it to parents. Secondary teachers will provide students with 45 minutes of instruction per block (a minimum of 10.5 hours per week). Daily instructional time per block may vary by course at the high school level. Elementary teachers will provide students with 2-3 hours of instruction per day. Lessons should be no longer than 30-45 minutes. Recorded videos will be posted in Google Classroom for students to review independently.

Lessons should be no longer than 30-45 minutes and will occur between the hours of 9:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m. There will also be an opportunity for virtual office hours for students needing extra assistance; individual teachers will share virtual hours with their students. Additionally, staff will monitor email throughout the day.

For electives, schools will determine a rotating schedule to present virtual lessons (pre-recorded or live). Electives include art, physical education, music, and health (select schools may have additional electives).

If assignments and activities that were sent home provide weblinks, what do I do if I do not have Internet?

Teachers are trying to implement online instruction through Google Classroom and other online venues, but the school division realizes that not everyone has Internet service. In an effort to provide students with internet access, GCPS has installed additional hotspots at the following schools: GES bus parking lot; WMS in front of the main entrance and GHS in the student parking lot. Community sites include Tel-Page main office and Owen Ford in Jarratt (remote learning wifi). Parents/students may park in front of the school and access the wireless internet **from their cars**. The wireless network can be accessed using GCPS-Guest.GCPS is working on a plan to provide "hot spots" in various locations throughout the county. Paper copies of work will also be provided for those students who do not have Internet. GCPS continues to

search for other ways to meet the educational needs of students. Parents will be updated as other learning strategies are being implemented.

As a parent, what if I am having difficulty assisting my child with remote learning?

We feel it is important for students to continue learning throughout the school closure; there tends to be a loss of skills previously learned when they are not practiced or used. If at any time this becomes too much -- take a break from it or reach out for assistance from teachers and administrators.

Will SOL tests still be given?

There will be no further SOL tests given during the 2019-2020 school year.

Will students receive end-of-year report cards?

Students will receive final report cards in the mail at the end of the school year.

Will my child be promoted to the next grade level for the 2020-2021 school year?

Students who were on track to pass as of March 13, 2020, will be promoted to the next grade and/or pass the course. Teachers will communicate with the parents of any students who were at risk of being retained as of March 13, 2020.

What will seniors need to do to graduate?

Seniors who were in good standing prior to the closing of schools will graduate in the spring. Seniors who had failing grades in any courses will be provided an opportunity to bring up their grades.

Will there be a graduation ceremony?

There will be a commencement ceremony for the Class of 2020 when it is deemed safe to do so.

Will there be a prom?

Yes, prom will be held when it is deemed safe to do so. If circumstances permit, prom will be held at GCHS.

Will students receive honor roll and end of year certificates?

Yes, certificates will be mailed home with report cards.

How will students receive yearbooks?

Students who ordered yearbooks will receive them in the mail when they are delivered to the school. Students who did not order yearbooks but wish to purchase one will still have a chance to buy them.

When can students register for PreKindergarten or Kindergarten?

Dates for registration will be determined as soon as it is deemed safe to do so.

How can I pick up my child's medication stored with the school nurse?

Parents can arrange to pick up a child's medication by calling their child's school between the hours of 10:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m. to set up a time for pick-up. After you have scheduled a time, a staff member will meet you at the designated school to return medicines.

How can I pick up my child's belongings from school?

Belongings can be picked up when it is deemed safe to do so. Parents and students will be notified.

Will I receive a refund for field trips that were cancelled?

Yes, refunds will be issued and mailed to parents.

How do I receive breakfast and lunch meals for my child?

Check the GCPS website for distribution sites