

Dear GCPS Families,

Thank you for your patience and support as we continue to navigate all of the challenges surrounding the COVID-19 pandemic. Due to the abrupt closure of schools for the remainder of the 2019-2020 school year, our focus is on providing learning opportunities so that students will be prepared for the next grade level, college, or career after graduation.

All across the country, parents are serving as their child's teacher until the pandemic is over. It is our sincere desire to provide you the resources needed. In addition to meeting your child's academic needs, we will continue to provide meals for students. Each Monday we will provide meals for the entire week. We are concerned about the emotional well-being of your children, too.

### Learning Plan

Virtual learning opportunities will be provided for all students beginning April 20<sup>th</sup>. Teachers are currently contacting parents to find out if students have access to the internet and a device in the home. This information will be used to determine where hotspots need to be placed throughout the community and how many devices are needed for student use.

Teachers are engaged in professional development this week to prepare virtual learning opportunities that will begin on April 20<sup>th</sup> (after Spring Break). Teachers will utilize online tools such as Zoom and Google Classroom to provide lessons and support. These tools can be accessed on cell phones as well as computers. We realize that not all students have access to the internet but want to provide opportunities for teachers to connect with students and remain in compliance with the Governor's order to stay put. Your child will not be penalized if he/she cannot participate in online learning options.

In an attempt to address the educational needs of our students with disabilities, special education teachers are working collaboratively with general education teachers in the differentiation of assignments. Mr. Yanez is also working with teachers to provide support for our ESL students.

The barriers presented by COVID-19 require us to try different methods to meet the needs of all of our students. Therefore, IEP/504 or eligibility meetings will be conducted virtually. The Department of Pupil Personnel will communicate next steps for these meetings.

### Grades

Virtual learning opportunities will not be graded. We realize that all students do not have the same level of support at home to ensure equity in grading. Every attempt to participate in the virtual learning opportunities should be made to ensure that students are ready for the next grade level.

K-8: Final grades for the year will be determined by averaging the first three grading periods. Students in good standing as of March 13<sup>th</sup>, will progress to the next grade level. Teachers will communicate with the parents of any students who were at risk of being retained as of March 13, 2020.

Grades 9 – 11: In order to earn a standard or verified credit, students must successfully complete a majority of the required standards, competencies, and objectives. Virtual learning opportunities will be provided for high school students as well. Students enrolled in Dual Enrollment courses have been contacted by their teachers for assignments that must be completed.

Seniors: Seniors who were “on track” to graduate in June will be able to do so.

Prom/Graduation: We are exploring how to host both activities once it is deemed safe to do so. Look for communication from GCHS as plans are developed.

This can be a very difficult time for students as their normal routine has been drastically changed. We encourage you to talk with your child about any stress he/she may be experiencing. Please visit the following link for helpful tips on talking with your child:

<https://kidshealth.org/en/parents/coronavirus-how-talk-child.html>

Additional resources may be found on the Virginia Department of Education’s website at:

[http://www.doe.virginia.gov/support/health\\_medical/office/covid-19-parent-guide.shtml](http://www.doe.virginia.gov/support/health_medical/office/covid-19-parent-guide.shtml)

Thank you for your support. A frequently asked questions page will be posted on the GCPS website and social media page to keep you informed. We will get through this together and come out on the other side stronger. Please know that we are praying for each of you.

Sincerely,

Kim F. Evans, Ed.D.