



APRIL 17, 2020

DISTANCE LEARNING

DISTRICT UPDATE

The COVID-19 pandemic and the resulting mandate to end all face-to-face instruction in the Carroll County School System (CCSS) has had a profound impact on the daily lives of our students, families, and employees. During these times, we know that many of you have questions about plans for the remainder of the school year. The information in this publication will provide some answers for you. Additional details will be shared as other decisions are made and plans are finalized.

Distance Learning & Last Day of Teaching & Learning

CCSS will continue Distance Learning Days through May 15. End of the year activities and individual student support will begin May 4 through the last day of school. Even though students and staff are not in a traditional school setting, teaching and learning is continuing through digital content and at-home packets that are aligned to Georgia standards.

FLEX Fridays

For the remainder of our Distance Learning, students will be assigned academic work Monday - Thursday with Friday being a "Flex Day" to be set aside for: Fun, Leisure, and Extra support for specific students.

Student Support

Though the methods may be different, with staff and students in distance learning classrooms rather than a school building, teachers continue to provide interventions and supplemental support to students who are struggling. It is more important than ever that parents help students stay connected with teachers in order to take advantage of their assistance.

Students may experience emotional upheaval or social challenges during this trying time, too. CCSS Counselors continue to work with students in need. If a parent has concerns about his or her child, they can reach out to the teacher or school to request school counseling support. Additionally, Georgia has provided a COVID-19 Emotional Support Line, 866-399-8938, that offers 24/7 free and confidential emotional support and resource information.

Attendance

Teachers are not taking attendance each day; however, they are monitoring which students are participating in Distance Learning and are reaching out to students who are not completing assignments. All student and staff attendance incentives for this school year were suspended on March 12.



Assessments

Assessments: Assessment is a critical element of teaching and learning that also has been impacted by COVID-19. CCSS teachers assess how students are doing through daily assignments and quizzes, as well as tests that measure students' growth and learning over the year or semester.

Local Assessments: All Carroll County assessments such as common grade level assessments and STAR Testing have been canceled.

State Testing: All state-required spring testing has been canceled by the GADOE including GKIDS, Georgia Alternate Assessments, and the Georgia Milestones End of Grade and End of Course tests.

Advanced Placement (AP) Exams: College Board has announced that AP testing will take place online May 11-22. Students will take a 45-minute exam online at home for each AP course exam for which they are registered.

SAT: Currently, the next SAT exam administration is tentatively scheduled for the first weekend in June. The College Board continues to assess whether it can safely hold that administration and will share more information with families as soon as it is feasible to do so.

ACT: When ACT postponed the April 4 test date, registered students received an email from ACT providing instructions for rescheduling on a future ACT test date at no charge. The next test dates are tentatively June 13 and July 18.

Grading

While grades are certainly important, we recognize and understand that the health and well-being of our students and their families, takes precedence in times like these. Students' grades will not be negatively impacted because of Distance Learning. Teachers will continue to monitor progress, grade assignments, provide feedback, and offer additional support to ensure student success. Report Cards will be available May 29th.

Promotion

CCSS wants to ensure a child's promotion to the next grade level will not be negatively impacted because of Distance Learning. Promotion and retention decisions will be based on current board policy. All recommendations for retention must be reviewed and approved by the child's parent or guardian.

End-of-the-Year Activities

Prom: High schools that did not hold their proms prior to March 13 will select possible alternative dates and locations. Each school will share additional information regarding their specific plans.



Graduation: Each high school has selected alternative graduation ceremony plans, if needed, and some are considering location changes, due to the UWG campus closure. Detailed information will be shared by each school when plans are finalized. Cap and gowns may be picked up at the following dates and times:

Bowdon - May 6th, 9am-11am

Central - May 7th, 9am-12pm

Mount Zion - May 6th, 9am-11am

Temple - May 8th, 2pm-4pm

Villa Rica - May 8th, 9am-1pm

Transcripts: Seniors will receive transcript information during cap and gown pick-up. Additional information is available on each school's website.

School Specific: Each school will publish information regarding end-of-the-year activities relevant to the school and your child (i.e. awards, field day, etc.).

Picking-up Personal Belongings and Returning Items to School: Schools are working on updating their end-of-year processes and will communicate to families when students will have access to the building to pick-up personal belongings, return Chromebooks and books, as well as any other items to the school.

Summer Academic Support/Summer School

If the current COVID situation is resolved in time and it is safe to do so, CCSS will hold Summer School for grades 9-12 and academic camps for grades K-12. Academic camps will provide support for students with low participation in Distance Learning and whose teachers recommend additional help. Summer academic resources will be available on the district website beginning May 26. Resources will be published every two weeks throughout the summer for parents and students.

Summer Camps

If the current COVID situation is resolved in time and it is safe to hold summer camps, specific schools will provide information about enrollment.

Meal Distribution

CCSS has been providing meal distribution since March 16 through the federal School Nutrition Program. We will continue to distribute meals for children 18 years and younger (21 years and younger with special needs) as long as it is safe to do so. The School Closure Meal Delivery Schedule is available at carrollcountyschools.com.

The annual Summer Meal Program will begin on June 1. The current pick-up locations will remain the same during the summer program. A schedule of bus deliveries will be posted at carrollcountyschools.com before June 1.