

Calvert County Public Schools

COVID-19 Continuity of Learning Plan

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Maryland State Superintendent, Dr. Karen Salmon, has called for each school district to provide continuity of learning, despite the uncertainty of a student return date. As a result, school districts across the state are evaluating their capacity to move to learning in a digital environment. Last week, Calvert County Public Schools (CCPS) instructional supervisors developed supplementary resources and activities that would bridge the instructional gap through March 30. Those activities were posted on the Calvert County Public Schools website on Wednesday, March 18. As the rates of COVID-19 increase, Dr. Salmon has now directed that schools be closed through April 24. We are therefore instituting a more robust online learning program for students.

CCPS is aware of the various difficulties our community may face with learning in a digital environment. We are working with families to make learning accessible to every household. As a first step, principals requested that parents contact the school if a device or Internet access is needed. We are working with those families who responded to provide a laptop and make them aware of low-cost Internet and public wifi options. In addition, paper copies will be provided for families with no or unreliable connectivity.

CCPS has determined that we will use Schoology, our Learning Management System, to answer Dr. Salmon's request. Two years ago, CCPS adopted Schoology systemwide. This year, every CCPS student has a Schoology account, and many teachers and students are already familiar with its capabilities. Parents can also access Schoology to monitor their students' learning.

During this transition, the goal is not to replicate a typical face-to-face student day. CCPS will provide guidelines for student access to online materials and will be flexible about when and how students complete the work, as to not cause additional stress to families in this difficult time. CCPS recognizes that the nature of this pandemic makes it an unrealistic expectation for students and teachers to complete their grade-level curriculum as if they were attending school every day. Rather, our goal is to provide the means for students to stay engaged in meaningful learning until students and staff can return to school, whenever that may be.

In order to make this transition to learning in a digital environment a success, we have developed implementation guidance for staff, students, and families. Please note, we are in a novel and fluid situation that may require adjustments as new information from state and federal agencies is provided. A forthcoming frequently asked questions document will provide further clarification.

We are committed to providing students with an opportunity to continue learning by responding to the challenge that COVID-19 presents.

**Note that Plum Point Middle School will provide specific guidance to parents regarding content found on Summit. All other PPMS content will be found on Schoology.*

What Families Can Expect

- Communication from CCPS regarding next steps for continuity of learning
- Devices available for pick-up by appointment at school March 26 and 27. Please call your school to schedule an appointment.
- Guidelines for learning in a digital environment
- Learning activities that can be completed with or without internet access
- Paper copies of learning activities provided to families without internet access
- Method for collecting work completed from families without internet access
- Online support for technology issues that may arise
- Email responses from school counselors
- Transfers to be processed by pupil personnel workers
- Related services to be provided by school psychologist and school social workers

What Students Can Expect

- Learning activities posted in Schoology by teachers
- Expectation to access the learning activities each day
- Questions answered via email or through Schoology by teachers
- Feedback provided by teachers on submitted learning activities
- Grades may be provided as part of feedback on submitted learning activities
- Email responses from school counselors
- Contacts from the school psychologist or school social worker to engage in required services

What Teachers Can Expect

- Return to work remotely on March 30
- Virtual meeting(s) with principal and supervisors
- Participate in webinars and online professional development
- Review the two weeks of learning activities uploaded to Schoology by content supervisors and teachers
- Interact with students through the Schoology platform

If you are trying to get help for a child who has expressed a desire to harm himself/herself, please call 911. Other resources that are helpful include: calling 211, texting any word or phrase to 741741 or calling the local crisis center hotline number at 410-535-1121 or the national teen help line at 1-800-422-0009