

November 10, 2020

Dear Parent/Guardian:

On Monday, November 9th, the FCPS School Board voted on the return to school plan for the second semester of the 2020-21 school year. On Tuesday, January 26, 2021, all students in PreK through 12th grades will return to school four days a week. Wednesdays will continue to be remote learning days for all students. The primary mitigation strategy will be the proper use of face coverings/masks. We will adhere to three feet social distancing as much as possible and use tri-fold safety screens where feasible. Hand hygiene, respiratory etiquette, cleaning, and disinfecting will continue to help reduce the potential spread of Covid-19 and other illnesses. Students will continue to cohort throughout the school day to minimize exposure for students, teachers, and staff across the school environment.

This correspondence is to inform you of an elementary virtual academy that will be created in Franklin County Public Schools for the second semester in order to meet the needs of parents and students who choose 100% virtual instruction. Current virtual students must reapply to be considered for acceptance in the elementary virtual academy for the second semester. Once accepted, all virtual students must agree to remain in the virtual academy for the entire semester.

Certain criteria must be met in order to be accepted in the FCPS Elementary Academy:

- Students must be passing reading and math courses with a letter grade of C or above in grades 2 - 5. The grade is averaged on Q1 and current Q2 grades. Students must meet minimum benchmarks in reading and math in grades K and 1 in Q2. *In order to assess mastery of skills, students should complete assessments, learning activities, and/or performance tasks on a daily basis. Parental support is encouraged; however, students **must** complete their own assignments.*
- Students must have reliable internet access with acceptance to the virtual academy.
- Parents/Guardians must ensure that your child has the access to necessary technology devices, Internet, and a workspace conducive to learning.
- Virtual instruction can be presented in two formats: synchronous and asynchronous.
 - **Synchronous** learning occurs when there is real-time interaction between the students and instructor, often with set class times and schedule.
 - **Asynchronous** learning happens when content is available for students to access when it best serves their individual schedules.

- If a student has an active 504 Plan or IEP, the district/school will work with the parents/guardians to determine if the document requires modifications due to virtual learning.
- Virtual students will be responsible for state testing requirements and will be required to test onsite. Students who are accepted in the virtual academy are eligible to participate in all school extra curricular activities.
- Based on the number of students who are accepted in the virtual academy, we may have to add additional classes or reduce classes. There is a potential for change in a child's teacher and learning program. Parents must understand that students in kindergarten through 2nd grades will require 3 - 4 hours of parental support.

FCPS Elementary Virtual Academy online and paper applications will become available on **Friday, November 13, 2020**. This **ONLY** demonstrates your intent to enroll in the Virtual Academy. Completed contracts are due on **Monday, November 30, 2020**, at 4:00 pm to each building principal. **No late submissions will be accepted**. Students who are not accepted into the Elementary Virtual Academy will be notified by a separate letter by **Friday, December 11, 2020**. Principals will consider multiple factors (ie attendance, grades, social/emotional well-being, etc.) when determining acceptance. Again, current virtual students must reapply to be considered for acceptance.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions about our virtual academy.

In service,

Kimberly W. Poindexter
Principal