



FREDERICKSBURG CITY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

A K-12 International Baccalaureate Continuum Division
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Office of the Superintendent Marceline R. Catlett, Ed.D.

August 28, 2020

Dear FCPS Families and Staff,

I am beginning this week's, *Message from the Superintendent*, by expressing a deep sadness for the loss of a member of our Fredericksburg City Public School's family.

This week, we learned of the recent death of Mr. Robert Anne, a Teacher at Hugh Mercer Elementary School. Mr. Anne served as an educator with Fredericksburg City Public Schools for 19 years teaching at both Hugh Mercer Elementary and Walker-Grant Middle School.

The staff at Hugh Mercer was made aware of Mr. Anne's passing from Central Office and School Administrators. School counselors, psychologists and social workers were available to provide assistance during this difficult time.

On Friday, August 28, 2020, staff from Hugh Mercer met at the school's flagpole to have a moment of silence. There are no words, no verbal expressions that can do justice to the anguish of the heart at times such as these. Mr. Anne's passing has touched us all so deeply, and our sympathies and condolences are with his family and friends.

Teaching and Learning

Walker-Grant Early Childhood Center:

Preschool staff rode buses through our neighborhoods to deliver school supplies, the One School, One Book materials and related daily activities to students and their families. Their book *Kissing Hand* features Chester the Raccoon who was also along for the ride and loved seeing our students. If you did not get to meet Chester, check out the Preschool program's Facebook page: @fredheadstart.

Hugh Mercer Elementary School:

Administrative teams were excited to board buses with Humphrey to visit neighborhoods in our community. They were able to meet students and their families while distributing a copy of the book *The World According to Humphrey* and other daily activities. Families are continuing to post on social media their adventures and learning with Humphrey. Parents are encouraged to reach out to their teachers at any time from 11:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. each school day if they have class-specific questions.

Lafayette Upper Elementary School:

Lafayette administration teamed with Hugh Mercer to visit neighborhoods to meet students and families as they gave out copies of the book *The World According to Humphrey* and related activities. Teachers continue to check in with families along with scheduling virtual meetings.

Beginning this week, the FCPS Department of Teaching and Learning released a daily alert with a link to a CANVAS training video. These videos along with a variety of Distance Learning Resources can now be located on the division's website by clicking on the Distance Learning Resources link above the Mission Statement. Each school's webpage also has a link under the school banner called "Distance Learning Resources". Click there to access all videos and resources or simply use this link to get started:

<https://www.fxbgschools.us/academics/distance-learning-resources>

Walker-Grant Middle School:

Walker-Grant Middle School students are embracing what makes us uniquely different, sharing our gifts with our community and with each other. Students will demonstrate #TigerPRIDE: by showing **Positivity, Respect** for ourselves and others, **Innovation, Determination, and Encouragement**. We are pleased to have received the following feedback from a parent, "I know they enjoyed sending letters to the nursing home. My child picked a place in Texas that was asking for connections so they have 5 Walker-Grant Middle School letters coming their way!" A student quoted, "I really enjoyed writing letters to the nursing home and the mailman/woman challenge. I also really liked the club idea challenge."

James Monroe High School:

The Time Capsule Project at James Monroe High School provides students the opportunity to express their experience of living through the pandemic with a wide variety of daily assignments (journal entries, poems, songs, performances, drawings, cartoons, and editorials—just to name a few). Dr. Duffy commented, "the Time Capsule project has been so uplifting to staff at JMHS to see our students engage in their learning in such a personal, creative, and thoughtful way. Even some of our faculty got together to write and perform a song about the Time Capsule Project! The school looks forward to hosting a virtual gallery of student work."

Technology

Fredericksburg City Public Schools has partnered with COX Communications to connect students that do not have an internet connection at home through their Connect2Compete Program.

This program usually costs families \$9.95 a month, but FCPS is going to pay the \$9.95 cost so it will be free for families that need connectivity. Everyone should be prequalified, if you are not please establish service and then contact 540-372-1120.

There are no annual contracts with Connect2Compete, and free in-home Wi-Fi equipment rental is included with no installation fees. Cox is also working with PCs for People to provide discounted, refurbished computers for eligible families.

Families can learn more at <http://www.cox.com/apply> or call by calling 855-222-3252.

Upcoming Labor Day Holiday

Please be reminded that Friday, September 4 and Monday, September 7, 2020 are both all Staff and Student Holidays in observance of Labor Day. All FCPS locations will be closed on Friday and Monday. All offices and staff will report to work on Tuesday, September 8, 2020.

Deep Cleaning Days

Please be aware that the division will soon begin to conduct once a week deep cleaning processes. These processes will be in addition to the now daily routine cleaning practices. Each Wednesday all locations will be closed as well as each Friday beginning at 2:00 p.m. These days will be instructional dates for students but staff will work remotely. Beginning on Wednesday, September 16, 2020, FCPS will close all locations for weekly deep cleaning processes. Then on Friday, September 18, 2020 staff will be dismissed at 2:00 p.m. as well for cleaning measures to be conducted.

Communications

Virtual Community Town Hall

On Thursday, August 27, 2020 FCPS held its second Virtual Community Town Hall. This event was broadcasted live on the city school's Facebook page, @Fredschools. We are pleased to announce that over 3,000 people were reached during the event. If you would like to watch the replay of the town hall please visit the city school's Facebook page. Staff are currently planning to hold a third FCPS Virtual Community Town Hall event very soon.

Staff Town Hall Chats

Fredericksburg City Public School administrators are committed to keeping our teachers and staff informed. We know communication is the key to our success. Since, the week of July 30th, we have conducted seven 30-minute Teacher Town Hall Virtual Chats. These Town Hall Chats focus specifically on teacher and staff concerns. Participation for these events has been very successful with an average of 250 participants during each event.

Superintendent Catlett Wants to Know

Beginning in January, I began hosting "Listen and Learn - Conversations with the Superintendent" events at each school. Students and staff were encouraged to take a moment to stop by to say hello and to enjoy some refreshments. As part of that event I distributed, "Superintendent Catlett Wants to Know" feedback cards. This feedback form is now available online at the following link: <https://bit.ly/31GCCyR>

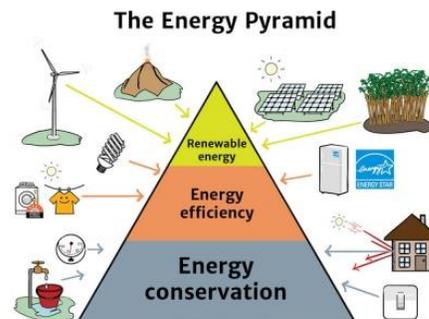
I would like to encourage all FCPS stakeholders to complete the form and provide your feedback. I am very excited to present this opportunity to you in order to provide input regarding FCPS and the bright future that we have ahead of us.

Facilities and Operations

Energy Usage/Conservation

Analyzing Energy Usage and Costs. In addition to analyzing historic facility costs by building, we want to look at ways that we can improve energy efficiency. Included below are the calculated costs per square foot for 2019 by location:

Hugh Mercer Elementary	\$1.54/SF
Lafayette Upper Elementary	\$1.39/SF
Walker-Grant Middle	\$1.17SF
James Monroe High	\$1.70/SF
Walker-Grant Center	\$1.59/SF



Our goal is to reduce energy usage and costs. We have begun the first task of resetting temperatures and set points in buildings when they are either occupied or unoccupied. Additionally, we are scheduling meetings with companies who can review with us ways to reduce energy use and costs through things like LED lighting, solar, HVAC enhancements, and etc.

Last week, a group representing FCPS meet with staff from Orange County Public Schools and representatives from their solar company, Secure Futures. Members of the group included: school board members, central office staff, representatives from the University of Mary Washington, community members, and Clean and Green Commissioners- Christi Carver, Robert Courtnage, and Sarah Hurst.

100th Anniversary of the 19th Amendment

This Wednesday, August 26, 2020, marked the 100th Anniversary of the 19th Amendment giving women the right to vote. Members of the Woman's Club of Fredericksburg organized a ceremony held on the steps of City Hall. I was honored to join Mayor Mary Katherine Greenlaw, Germanna President Dr. Janet Gullickson and Stafford Board of Supervisors Chairman Meg Bohmke to deliver remarks commemorating the event.

March on Washington

Today, Friday, August 28, 2020, marks the anniversary of the 57th March on Washington. I reflect back to 1963, when my mother attended the first March on Washington. I had the pleasure to attend the 50th Anniversary celebration with my son, Mario. In the spirit of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., may we move forward in peace advocating for justice and rights for all.

We have made many accomplishments as “new teachers and staff” in this uncharted new way of educating our students. Thank you for a successful two weeks! We took our challenges and flipped our approaches to get it right. Together, we continue to move forward and upward leading at the speed of change, promoting equity, empowerment, and excellence in education.

Please stay tuned for next week’s, “Message from the Superintendent”.

Sincerely,

Dr. Marceline Catlett
Superintendent