



FREDERICKSBURG CITY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

A K-12 International Baccalaureate Continuum Division
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SCHOOL BOARD

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Office of the Superintendent
Marceline R. Catlett, Ed.D.

September 11, 2020

Dear FCPS Families and Staff,

Today, September 11, we observe Patriot Day, to commemorate the lives of those who died in the 2001 terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center in New York City, the Pentagon in Virginia and those who perished when the hijacked United Airlines Flight 93 crashed in Pennsylvania. May we never forget ~

a time to remember those who died, those who served, and those who carry on.

At each FCPS location, a Freedom Flag was flown in remembrance of the events of September 11, 2001. This flag was designed by a Virginia citizen and features ten elements in a red, white, and blue design, commemorating all who lived and died on that tragic day.

The Freedom Flag Foundation encourages the K-12 public school community to consider raising the Freedom Flag and reciting the meaning of its 10 symbolic elements on September 11th in remembrance of the 19th anniversary of the 9/11 attacks. For more information about the Freedom Flag please visit: <https://www.freedomflagfoundation.org/>

School Board Public Hearing and Monthly Meeting

The Fredericksburg City School Board will conduct a remote public hearing on the Division Comprehensive/Strategic Plan – 2020-2025. The public hearing will take place during the Regular School Board Meeting on Monday, September 14, 2020. The meeting will be held virtually with the public portion beginning at 7:30 p.m. Please visit www.fxbschools.us for more information.

Teaching and Learning

Walker-Grant Early Childhood Center:

The Be Cool Preschool Bus was out and about this week delivering weekly school supplies and storybooks to all families before the holiday weekend. Available now on our website for all families is the Plan for Distance Learning which includes the Preschool Attendance plan for distance learning. Additionally, the Teaching Strategies Family app has been a successful tool for family-teacher communication. The app is available as a free download so that families may receive lesson plans directly through the app!

Hugh Mercer Elementary School and Lafayette Upper Elementary School:

This month, students attending Hugh Mercer Elementary and Lafayette Upper Elementary schools will begin participating in the SQUAD program. Each student will be partnered with a trained school coach – their SQUAD leader, who will provide academic and personal support.

The Squad initiative is provided by our amazing paraprofessionals who will meet the needs of families and students during distance learning. The program is meant to build a bridge, connecting our students with their very own champion, as well as offering a collaborative opportunity for each group of children.

SQUAD leaders will:

- Facilitate engaging meetings which students are invited to participate in, including activities such as show and tell, scavenger hunts, and lunch-bunch meetings.
- Engage with elementary families and students to provide support, resources, and weekly connections.
- Participate in weekly communication with families and collaborate with school staff and homeroom teachers.

Walker-Grant Middle School:

Week 1 of online instruction was most successful! As we navigate opportunities to refine delivery, remember to give yourself some grace. This is new for everyone as we are learning Canvas together. A change you may have noticed already, teachers have entered banners with due dates to help organize instruction and activities.

It is important to have a schedule or routine to keep yourself on track. Look at the sample, as a help to schedule days by content, time or whatever works for you.

For your convenience, [click here for an editable template](#) for a weekly or daily schedule. Remember do not hesitate to reach out to your teachers. We are here for you!

UPCOMING EVENT!

This week the Physical Education Department at Walker-Grant Middle School conducted a supply pick up. All students who did not receive a P.E. supply kit during Student Orientation will have the opportunity to pick up a kit on Wednesday September 9th from 5:00pm- 7:00pm as well as Thursday September 10th from 11:00 a.m. -1:00 p.m.

James Monroe High School:

James Monroe High School has been busy reaching out to students delivering laptops, textbooks, and supplies for families who were not able to attend the distribution events at school. Three buses loaded with supplies and teachers traveled throughout the city for three days—it was a very successful effort to get students the supplies they needed for the first week of online class in Canvas.

Teachers continue developing lessons and working with students to complete their lessons and assignments in Canvas. In other news, the 2020 Fall Ceili Leahy Day of Service is planned to be a

virtual event. Day of Service Volunteers will write cards and letters, and send artwork and messages of love to hospice patients and residents of a senior living community. Volunteers may also become pen pals with senior living residents, and with elementary school students who will begin their school year remotely. Volunteers began their service after Labor Day and will continue until at least October 17, our official Day of Service this fall, though we are encouraging volunteers to continue service well beyond then. For more info: <https://jmhs.fxbgschools.us/community/ceili-leahy-day-of-service>

Deep Cleaning Days

Please be reminded that the division will be conducting once a week deep cleaning procedures beginning this week. These protocols will be in addition to the daily routine cleaning practices. Each Wednesday all locations will be closed as well as each Friday beginning at 2:00 p.m. These days are instructional dates for students but staff will work remotely. The first routine deep cleaning day will be held Wednesday, September 16, 2020 and on Friday, September 18, 2020 staff will be dismissed at 2:00 p.m.

Please continue to communicate your needs, questions, and concerns to your child's teacher and principal. We value ongoing, productive and timely communication with students and parents. Thank you for being awesome partners as we continue to engage in this novel and innovative way of teaching and learning. I hope you have a wonderful weekend.

Sincerely,

Dr. Marceline Catlett

Superintendent