

April 21, 2020

Dear Kilmer Families,

Thank you for your patience with us as FCPS continues to refine our Distance Learning practices. We want to assure you that the Kilmer MS staff is committed to providing a secure, engaging, and positive learning environment for all of our students. We are very proud of the ways our teachers have continued to connect with students, support curriculum access, and provide learning opportunities despite the technology challenges. We have heard from many parents and teachers highlighting positive stories of reconnection. So, while we haven't been able to be synchronous on Wednesdays and Fridays yet, we are confident that beginning next week our Kilmer staff will be ready to resume live instruction. We can't wait to reconnect with all our students!

Moving forward, students will be sent unique Blackboard Collaborate Links from each one of their teachers to their fcpsschools.net email to access synchronous learning and office hours. To assist students with staying organized, each student should cut and paste each link into the [distance learning schedule](#), a fillable document located on the Kilmer website. **Please have your child delete all previous Blackboard Collaborate links.**

In preparation for synchronous learning on a safe platform, the Kilmer MS staff will be engaged in training while also maintaining asynchronous learning access for all students. **Students should continue to access learning in an asynchronous environment tomorrow, Wednesday, April 22 and Friday, April 24.**

As our teachers participate in training and prepare their synchronous learning sites this week, teachers may reach out to students to join them in an office hours type setting to "practice" accessing and using the new links. We expect to have all staff and students set up for success in synchronous sessions beginning next week with students engaging in office hours on Tuesday, April 28 and their synchronous class schedule on Wednesday, April 29.

Please note the third quarter has been extended until Friday, May 1, 2020. Students can continue to work with their teachers to complete missing assignments and complete reassessments through next week.

What should my child do this week?

- Review Google Classroom, email, and Blackboard 24-7 for asynchronous activities and updates, including directions to access secure Blackboard Collaborate Ultra classes
- Teachers have posted pre-recorded lessons to either their Blackboard page or google classroom as well as learning activities and assignments for students to complete.
- Complete any outstanding assignments from the 3rd quarter and participate in retakes, as needed.

- Reach out to teachers, school counselors, or an administrator with questions.

We will be offering parent information sessions this week to provide you with recommendations for how to support your child with this most recent change and preparing them for next week. The sessions will be on Thursday, April 23 at 1:00 PM and 3:00 PM and Friday, April 24 at 8:30 AM. We will be holding the parent information sessions using Blackboard Collaborate Ultra and will send the link out Wednesday afternoon. Please note each session has a maximum of 250 participants. The sessions will cover the same information. Please plan to only participate in one session. We will record the sessions as well.

Please take care of yourselves and of each other.

Sincerely,

Amy Miller
Principal