

Dear Kilmer Families,

We hope you all are doing well. We certainly miss seeing you at school! The Kilmer teachers and staff have spent this past week preparing for Distance Learning and although it is not the same as being in the classroom with your students, we are all looking forward to resuming instruction through Distance Learning on Tuesday, April 14.

As we embark on Distant Learning, we recognize it can present different opportunities and challenges for families and students. While our number one goal is to continue high-quality instruction, we recognize the challenges and obstacles our students and families may face in the upcoming weeks will be exciting yet apprehensive. To prepare for this new approach to learning, it is important that we help our students adjust to the new normal and begin to develop good learning habits.

Distance Learning

Distance Learning is an experience where teachers and students are separated by place. There are two types of Distance Learning that will take place during this time: Synchronous learning and Asynchronous learning.

- **Synchronous Learning** is direct interaction between students and teachers at the same time through a virtual class online. During synchronous learning, students can receive immediate feedback and clarification and teachers can provide direct instruction, and opportunities for discussions and presentations.
- **Asynchronous Learning** is a time for students to work independently or collaborate with their peers. Teachers provide materials (videos, assignments, links to content, group work) that students can access at different times throughout the week and work at their own pace.

Virtual classes will be held on a tool called Blackboard Collaborate. All classes will be recorded and posted to the teacher's Blackboard site for students to reference at another time. All class assignments, due dates, and materials will be posted in FCPS 24/7 Learning (Blackboard). Teachers can still use Google Classroom to communicate with students and collect work.

Student Schedule

Below is the Distance Learning schedule. On Wednesdays and Fridays, students will participate in synchronous learning for the four core content classes (**Math, English, Science, History**) and High School Credit **World Languages** classes. Students will attend their odd period classes on Wednesdays and their even period classes on Fridays.

In order for students to continue to receive math/reading intervention and ESOL and Special Education supports, students who are currently enrolled in the courses listed below should attend synchronous learning on Wednesdays and Fridays during the period the class is listed on your student's regular school schedule.

Additional courses participating in synchronous learning on Wednesdays and Friday include: Reading, Action Literacy, READ 180, Algebra Readiness, Personal Development, Strategies for Success (Yearlong),

FAST MATH, Beginning English, Beginning ELD, Developing ELD, Focus Science, ESOL History, and ESOL Civics and Academic Language.

Electives and PE classes will provide activities on Blackboard for students to complete during asynchronous (independent) learning time. Students can complete these assignments on Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays or during their class period on their own on Wednesdays and Fridays. Please note that these activities will not be face-to-face on Wednesdays and Fridays.

All teachers will have **office hours on Tuesdays and Thursdays**. These office hours will be communicated to you by each teacher and posted on each teacher’s Blackboard. Office hours are a time when students can sign on to Blackboard Collaborate to consult with their teachers regarding their assignments and ask questions. Teachers might also ask students to come to office hours to provide additional support or extension. All elective and PE teachers will also hold office hours on Tuesdays and Thursdays so students can connect with them “face-to-face”.

Monday Asynchronous Learning	Tuesday Asynchronous Learning	Wednesday Synchronous Learning	Thursday Asynchronous Learning	Friday Synchronous Learning
<p>Independent or collaborative work completed by students.</p> <p>Students can access activities for their electives (PE, Art, Music, FACS, etc.). These assignments will be posted to Blackboard.</p>	<p>Independent or collaborative work completed by students.</p> <p>Students can access activities for their electives (PE, Art, Music, FACS, etc.). These assignments will be posted to Blackboard.</p> <p>Teacher Office Hours through Blackboard Collaborate for Individualized Instruction and Support</p>	<p>Students attend synchronous classes for English, Science, History, Math, and World Languages</p> <p>Bell Schedule by Period</p> <p>1: 9:15-10:00</p> <p>3: 10:30-11:15</p> <p>Lunch Break</p> <p>PAWS: 12:15-1:00</p> <p>7: 1:30-2:15</p> <p>*PAWS attendance is optional. Teachers may request that students attend PAWS for one-on-one or small group support.</p>	<p>Independent or collaborative work completed by students.</p> <p>Students can access activities for their electives (PE, Art, Music, FACS, etc.). These assignments will be posted to Blackboard.</p> <p>Teacher Office Hours through Blackboard Collaborate for Individualized Instruction and Support</p>	<p>Students attend synchronous classes for English, Science, History, Math, and World Languages</p> <p>Bell Schedule by Period</p> <p>2: 9:15-10:00</p> <p>4 10:30-11:15</p> <p>Lunch Break</p> <p>6: 12:15-1:00</p> <p>8 1:30-2:15</p>

Grading

The 3rd Quarter will remain open until April 24. No student work assigned after March 13 will be graded, at the recommendation of VDOE; however, work assigned prior to March 13 will still be accepted up until April 24 in order to be applied in the calculation of students' third quarter grades. Teachers will be working directly with students to make sure all students can finish third quarter work. Please encourage your students to complete any third quarter assignments. Additional information about the fourth quarter will be shared the week of April 13.

Getting Started - Distant Learning 101

Where can I find the assignments that my student should be working on?

FCPS 24-7 Learning/Blackboard

Where will they complete the assignment?

FCPS 24-7 Learning/Blackboard, Google Classroom, or an alternative application

How will I support my child?

No one expects you to be the teacher. Your child may be your best guide as to when, how much and how often he/she needs your support. Don't feel like he or she is behind. The great part of this is that there is suddenly plenty of time to work at his/her preferred pace and to work when and where he/she is most comfortable. One of the best supports is to create a visible schedule so all family members know what is expected.

School Counselors

Each school counselor will have regularly scheduled "office hours" to connect with students. Students will be able to sign up for 10-minute appointment times to speak with their school counselors. More information will be shared with students and parents by April 13.

In the meantime, parents and students can always email their counselor with any questions or concerns they may have. Don't forget - **if students are worried about him/herself or a friend in a crisis situation, the following steps need to be taken:**

1. Get help from a parent or trusted adult immediately
2. Call 911 or report the concern to the local police by calling the Fairfax County non-emergency number (703) 691-2131
3. Call Crisis Link at (703) 527-4077 or text CONNECT to 855-11
4. Please click on the link below for additional emergency services resources provided by FCPS.
<https://kilmerms.fcps.edu/student-services/mental-health-social-service>

Virtual Parent Presentation

Please join us for a virtual parent session on Monday, April 13 at 2:00 PM. We will share information about Distance Learning and answer questions. You will participate in this meeting by Blackboard Collaborate which is the same platform students will use for their synchronous learning. The link will be sent out next week.

We are excited to begin this new learning experience with you. Please do not hesitate to contact us with any questions. Please take care of yourself and of each other.

Sincerely,

Your Kilmer Administrative Team

FCPS Resources

Distance Learning Plan -

<https://www.fcps.edu/news/coronavirus-update-academics-distance>

Keeping Children Occupied While Schools are Closed -

<https://www.fcps.edu/blog/keeping-your-children-occupied-while-schools-are-closed-week-1>

FCPS 24-7 Learning/Blackboard -

<https://www.fcps.edu/resources/technology/fcps-24-7-learning>

SIS ParentVue -

<https://www.fcps.edu/resources/technology/fcps-24-7-learning/parent-help>