

March 16, 2020

Dear Parents and Guardians,

First of all, I want to thank all of you for your patience as we begin our online learning. The coronavirus is an unprecedented public health emergency that continues to evolve every day, sometimes hour by hour. Of course, we will continue to monitor any new developments very closely.

As you know, tomorrow, Tuesday, March 17, will be the first day of virtual instruction for all of our students.

In order for your child to be counted as present for the school day, please make certain that he/she logs his/her attendance each weekday during the closure. The attendance login and other resources needed to complete online instruction can be found at www.fcasd.edu/online-tools. If you require technology assistance, please visit go.fcasd.edu/community-help and fill out the Community Help Desk form.

While our students are being educated online, they should follow the official district calendar. This means that there will be no instruction on planned days off, and only a half day of instruction on early dismissal days. March 20 and April 3 are early dismissal days (half an online day). Spring break is scheduled for April 6-10, and no virtual classes will be held on these days.

Report cards for the third grading period are scheduled to go live at 4 p.m. March 27.

As we stated in a prior email, we will do two bus runs on Tuesday, March 17, to Fox Chapel Area High School and one bus run to Dorseyville Middle School for students to retrieve any items they'd like to have at home during the extended school closure. More information, as well as the bus stops and pickup times, can be found here: <http://bit.ly/2QkWe5w>. **Please note that after 11 a.m. March 17, there will be no access to any Fox Chapel Area School District facilities.**

Given that this is a very stressful time, we want parents to know that mental health resources continue to be available to our students. Our school counselors at each building are accessible, as well as MAPS employees. Please reach out to one of these people and, if needed, they can put you in touch with outside organizations that can offer help. A mental health crisis text line can be reached by texting "PA" to 741741.

We have also had several community groups reach out to us offering to provide assistance. We encourage community members who wish to volunteer to contact a local organization to find ways to offer help. These include Backpack for Hunger (info@backpackforhunger.org) and Volunteers of America/Youth Empowerment Project of Sharpsburg, which can be reached at (412) 782-5344.

Again, thank you for your partnership in education.

David McCommons, Ed.D.
Deputy Superintendent