



# 19 ESSENTIAL FACTS FOR FAMILIES

## ENSURING CONTINUITY OF LEARNING DURING COVID-19

### 1. DISTANCE LEARNING IS AVAILABLE FOR ALL LEARNERS

Students may access their learning materials using online platforms. Students in need of digital resources may request access to a laptop from the school administration team. For students in need of non-digital learning packets, pick-up times will be scheduled by the school's administrative team and a schedule will be placed on the school's website and sent out in email by the school's principal. Links to Google Classroom and resources can be found at [www.wcboe.org](http://www.wcboe.org) or <https://www.facebook.com/WCPSLearningLinks>.

### 2. STUDENTS CAN SUPPORT THEIR OWN LEARNING

- Create a daily schedule that allows for an appropriate time spent learning.
- Check school email and online platforms daily for assignments, feedback from teachers, and other information.
- Create an area for study and schoolwork that is quiet and conducive to learning.
- Engage with all learning opportunities to the best of your ability.
- Always uphold academic integrity.
- Submit all work by due dates provided by your teachers.
- Stay in frequent communication with your teachers.
- Be accountable for your learning. If you need help or clarification, it is important to ask for it. Your teachers are here to help you.
- Maintain your emotional well-being, stay active, stay in touch with your friends, and stay healthy.

### 3. PARENTS CAN SUPPORT THEIR CHILDREN'S LEARNING

- Encourage a daily schedule that allots for the appropriate time of learning.
- Communicate with your student's teachers, guidance counselors, and administration if there are any concerns or questions. Check your email for messages daily.
- Provide an area for study and schoolwork that is free of distractions and conducive to learning.
- Speak to your student about their schoolwork and assignments.
- Monitor their time spent on schoolwork and their assignments.
- Support your student's emotional well-being during this time. Encourage physical activity, healthy sleep routines, and conversations.

### 4. SUGGESTED SCHEDULES ARE AVAILABLE FOR LEARNERS AND EDUCATORS

All schools and teachers are following a specific learning timeframe in creating the distant learning resources. This is the amount of instruction that will be provided each day for distance learning. It is imperative to remember that the purpose of the continuity of learning core activities is not to stress students or families; the purpose is to provide students with opportunities to practice key skills. It is

encouraged that you explore familiar experiences and activities such as reading for pleasure, journal writing and play to extend and enhance your child’s learning in the elementary grades. Students in upper elementary and beyond will engage with varying degrees of independence. Please encourage your child to seek support while allowing your child to accept responsibility and take on challenges with increasing independence. Below are the learning timeframes:

**PK-30 minutes**

**Grades K-1: 45 minutes**

**Grades 2-3: 60 minutes**

**Grades 4-5: 90 minutes**

**Grades 6-12: 30 minutes per 4 core subjects-Math, ELA, Science, Social Studies).**

### Suggested Schedule for Home Instruction

In the case of an extended school closure, please use the following as a suggested guide to support your student’s learning while school buildings are closed. Feel free to vary this suggested schedule based on your student’s grade level and instructional needs; primary-age students will need less structured time than this, while high school students may need more. *Wicomico Schools* will provide options of learning experiences, both paper and online based, that your student can access at any time.

Time Frame	Learning Experience
8am-9am	Get ready for school. Get dressed and eat breakfast.
9am-9:30am	English
9:30am-10am	Math
10am-11pm	Free Read
11am-12pm	Physical Education Break. Pick a fun movement activity to do together or for your child to try on their own. Go for walk/run. <i>JustDance</i> /workouts if weather is bad.
12pm-12:30pm	Lunch
12:30pm-1:00pm	Science
1:00pm-1:30pm	Social Studies
1:30pm-2:30pm	Student Choice! Pick any of the Learning Experience menu items or come up with your own idea to engage your mind. Play a board game, write a story or build a fort!
2:30pm-9:00pm	Free Time! Relax, go outside, work on passions, time with family.
9:00pm	Lights out, bedtime, get some rest, turn off the electronics

### Menu of Suggested Learning Experiences by Content Area

#### ELA/Reading:

Read daily for at least 20-30 minutes- this can be done alone or with a parent, guardian, or sibling. Reading every day is the most important thing your child can do while school is closed! You can use a book you have at home OR access electronic books.

#### Math:

Practice math facts using flashcards

For any math problem you may be working on, explain verbally or in writing HOW you solved the problem.

#### Science:

Conduct a Scientific Investigation

#### Social Studies:

Talk about current events

#### Self-Improvement:

Parachute: a user-friendly, research-backed parenting app that provides easy access to solutions for common parenting challenges

Mind Yeti: a mindfulness app with guided sessions that help kids destress, focus, get along with others, and relax

Confident Parents, Confident Kids: a site with parent and child resources that support social-emotional development

Parent Toolkit: a site with information and articles about all aspects of child development

#### Fine Arts:

## 5. CHILDREN WITH SPECIALIZED SERVICES WILL RECEIVE SUPPORT

Special Education case managers are working with their school administrators to contact each parent to determine how each individual student’s IEP will be implemented during this extended closure. The plan will address how the student will access general education instruction. Special education and related services will be provided as outlined in the plan agreed upon with the student’s parent.

## 6. TEACHERS ARE AVAILABLE FOR STUDENTS

The online platforms support both continuity of learning and collaboration among faculty, students, and their families to ensure a quality student learning experience when planned and delivered remotely. WCPS email system, phone, Dojo, Google Classroom, and Zoom are the communication tools used to contact and communicate with families of students in all grade levels.

## 7. NO STUDENT WILL BE PENALIZED FOR LACK OF ACCESS TO ONLINE LEARNING

Grades will be recorded per round and not by assignment. Teachers will look for documentation of learning, not assigning point values but rather inputting pass or

incomplete. Non-digital resources are available to families who do not have adequate resources in the home. To receive a passing grade, a parent/guardian can communicate with a teacher that the student is completing learning activities if they have no way to submit assignments. Once school reopens, parents will submit any non-digital work completed during distance learning that they were unable to submit.

**8. MEALS ARE AVAILABLE FOR STUDENTS**

## WCPS Meals During Closure



Wicomico County Public Schools is providing free, nutritious meal bundles during the closure of schools through May 15. Meal bundles may be picked up 12-1 p.m. at the locations below on these Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays:

**April 20, 22, 24    April 27, 29 & May 1    May 4, 6, 8    May 11, 13, 15**

- Meal bundles available for all children up to age 18 and WCPS students 18+ with physical or mental disability.
- Child does not have to be present for parent/caregiver to receive a meal bundle for the child.

<u>School Sites</u>	<u>Community Sites</u>																				
<table border="0" style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <td style="width: 50%;">Delmar Elementary</td> <td style="width: 50%;">East Salisbury Elementary</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Fruitland Primary</td> <td>Mardela Middle and High</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pinehurst Elementary</td> <td>Pemberton Elementary</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pittsville Elem/Middle</td> <td>Prince Street Elementary</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Salisbury Middle</td> <td>Willards Elementary</td> </tr> </table>	Delmar Elementary	East Salisbury Elementary	Fruitland Primary	Mardela Middle and High	Pinehurst Elementary	Pemberton Elementary	Pittsville Elem/Middle	Prince Street Elementary	Salisbury Middle	Willards Elementary	<table border="0" style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <td style="width: 50%;">Allen Community Hall</td> <td style="width: 50%;">Asbury United Methodist (Sharptown)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Christian Shelter</td> <td>Nelson's United Methodist/EPOCH</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Newton Community Center</td> <td>Renovate Church (Delmar)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Stone Grove Crossing Community Center</td> <td>Doverdale Playground</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">Westside Volunteer Fire Dept. (Bivalve)</td> <td></td> </tr> </table>	Allen Community Hall	Asbury United Methodist (Sharptown)	Christian Shelter	Nelson's United Methodist/EPOCH	Newton Community Center	Renovate Church (Delmar)	Stone Grove Crossing Community Center	Doverdale Playground	Westside Volunteer Fire Dept. (Bivalve)	
Delmar Elementary	East Salisbury Elementary																				
Fruitland Primary	Mardela Middle and High																				
Pinehurst Elementary	Pemberton Elementary																				
Pittsville Elem/Middle	Prince Street Elementary																				
Salisbury Middle	Willards Elementary																				
Allen Community Hall	Asbury United Methodist (Sharptown)																				
Christian Shelter	Nelson's United Methodist/EPOCH																				
Newton Community Center	Renovate Church (Delmar)																				
Stone Grove Crossing Community Center	Doverdale Playground																				
Westside Volunteer Fire Dept. (Bivalve)																					

**9. SUPPORT AND RESOURCES ARE AVAILABLE TO OUR ENGLISH LANGUAGE LEARNERS**

Administration in collaboration with ELL teachers are working to ensure their students have access to materials and/or technology. ELL teachers are also working with classroom teachers who have ELL students to provide support and assist with modifying work and delivering instruction. ELL teachers will conduct weekly check-in calls with students). Educational packets and supporting resources are available in Spanish and Haitian Creole. These resources can be found at [www.wcboe.org](http://www.wcboe.org). The Superintendent's weekly message to families and staff is available in English, Spanish and Haitian Creole, and these messages along with other key documents are available on a Translations page of the website.

**10. STUDENTS WILL RECEIVE GRADES FOR TERMS 3 AND 4**

Students received a letter grade to conclude Term 3. Students' grades were based on work up until school closing, or completed during the first week of distance learning as Term 3 was wrapped up. Term 3 report card grades are available through our X2 Family Portal. For Term 4, student assignments will be graded per instructional round based on "pass" and "incomplete." Students in college and dual

enrollment classes will follow the procedures put in place by the college or university.

#### **11. WORK WILL BE MONITORED BY TEACHERS**

Students' work will be monitored and assessed during digital and/or non-digital learning. Teachers will use Google Classroom to monitor and assess students' work. Students can also submit work to their teachers through email or submit work once school reopens. Families may receive communication from teachers using other means of communication such as Remind and Class Dojo to monitor work and communicate with families.

#### **12. TECHNOLOGY AND TECH SUPPORT IS AVAILABLE TO STUDENTS**

Seniors were given priority for laptops to ensure academic success as they approach graduation. Students receiving specialized instruction services and students in Advanced Placement courses also received priority in distribution of technology devices. Technology was then dispersed equitably among the remaining students requesting technology. All schools have some level of Wi-Fi broadcasting into the parking lots. As an additional hotspot for families, a special antenna was added to the JMB Auditorium ticket booth, providing a stronger signal in the auditorium parking lot for families to use if needed.

#### **13. SCHOOL ADMINISTRATORS ARE AVAILABLE FOR ALL FAMILIES**

Please know your school administration is available during this time of distance learning. You may call or email your school administration any time and the administrators will quickly respond. If you have questions regarding your child's instructional activities, please directly contact your child's teacher. However, all other questions and needs can be shared with administrators who will in turn get you in contact with the appropriate supports or provide the necessary guidance.

#### **14. INSTRUCTIONAL STAFF ARE RECEIVING PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT**

In addition to working with students and being available to families each day, staff are also participating in a variety of professional development experiences to further build their skills for distance learning. Staff are attending webinars, online trainings, professional learning communities, etc. each day.

#### **15. GIFTED AND TALENTED STUDENTS ARE SUPPORTED DURING THIS TIME**

G and T students are communicating daily with their specialized teachers to receive extension activities and enrichment opportunities.

#### **16. SENIORS WILL GRADUATE**

The school system has applied for waivers for all assessment requirements not yet met due to the unexpected distance learning, for all seniors and "Junior Jumpers". Their graduation requirements will be based on the number of credits received and required courses. A decision on how to handle commencement and the awarding of diplomas has not yet been made. WCPS is exploring many options for making

this milestone occasion special for seniors and families even if a large-scale traditional commencement ceremony is not possible.

#### **17. SUPPORT FOR MENTAL WELLNESS IS AVAILABLE FOR OUR STUDENTS AND FAMILIES**

While it is important for parents and caregivers to engage students in learning during these challenging times, it is also important for consideration to be given for children's mental wellness. Please see below for links to help your child during a crisis:

<https://www.facebook.com/WCPSMentalHealthAwareness/>

<https://www.cdc.gov/healthyschools/bam/teachers.htm>

#### **18. STUDENTS ENROLLED IN AP COURSES CAN STILL TEST**

Advanced Placement (AP) exams are scheduled from May 11<sup>th</sup>-May 22<sup>nd</sup>. While testing will look very different, students who have signed up to take an AP test will have the opportunity to take the test. Each course assessment will have a specific date and time allotted for students to take the test from home. Students participating will have the option of answering and submitting questions from their computer or handwriting their answer and uploading a picture of their handwritten response. Each question will be timed with an additional five minutes for uploading the response. Students with approved accommodations of extended time will have it built into their personal exam. Students will only be tested on the material that they received through direct instruction from their instructor prior to this unexpected transition to our distance learning model for all students. <https://apcoronavirusupdates.collegeboard.org/students> has many online resources for students and parents to better prepare for the change in assessment protocols. A Student and Family Help Desk was created to assist families with online learning and access issues; students and parents can email [studenthelp@wboe.org](mailto:studenthelp@wboe.org), or leave a voicemail at 410-677-5200 for tech support.

#### **19. SCHOOL AND COUNTY CALENDARS WERE ALTERED AS A RESULT OF THIS CLOSURE**

As a result of this extended closure, our school calendar has changed. Currently our schools and school system are not holding any of the scheduled events including extracurricular activities and special ceremonies. All school-sanctioned travel, including field trips, are canceled during this closure. State Superintendent of Schools Dr. Karen Salmon will make future announcements related to decisions about school closures and revisions that may impact our school calendar.

