



Augusta County Public Schools
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Dear Parents and Families,

Coronavirus planning and preparation has been prevalent in the news and our work this week as we focus on the health and well-being of our students, staff, and community. I anticipate this will increasingly be the case in the weeks to come.

In meetings, conference calls, and conversations regarding the coronavirus outbreak, division administrators are focusing on proactive planning for ACPS operations while being mindful of the role we serve within the greater community. I'm pleased to say the efforts within our division and within our community are extensive, intentional, and based upon the most up-to-date guidance from the Department of Health (DOH) and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). As a school division, we're working to be strategic and thorough in anticipating all possible scenarios and being ready to respond to changing guidance and circumstances.

Guidance and responses to the virus are evolving day-to-day and even hour-to-hour in some cases. I will continue to communicate with you as proactively as possible and to communicate as clearly and thoroughly as circumstances permit. While prompt communication will be our goal, we also want to be clear and accurate in the information we provide.

At this point, schools remain open for regular instruction activities, and we are preparing for as many contingencies as possible, including the possibility of temporary school closure. The decision to close school will be based on all updated information we receive from local and state health departments and the CDC, as well as any recommendations from the Virginia Department of Education and the Governor's office. We will follow the requirements or recommendations of the Virginia High School League (VHSL) regarding hosting or student participation in any VHSL event. Additionally, all school events, including field trips, are being evaluated on a case-by-case basis. Your child's school will communicate changes and updates as decisions are made.

Please ensure that your child's school has your current contact information. We encourage you to plan in advance for the possible need to pick up your child in the event he or she becomes ill at school. Parents also should begin to plan for child care options should it become necessary to close schools for several days or longer.

Attached below are the latest DOH advisories for travelers. If you have spent or spend time in Level 2 or 3 locations (as identified by the CDC) at any point during the pandemic the school division expects you and your family to follow the recommendations of the CDC and DOH. Currently, the recommendations are that you will stay home for 14 days from the time you return from such travel, monitor your health, and practice social distancing. Social distancing means staying out of crowded places, avoiding group gatherings, and maintaining distance

(approximately 6 feet or 2 meters) from others when possible. Keep in mind that the CDC designations and the recommendations of the CDC and DOH may change at any time, so please be vigilant in remaining familiar with up-to-date designations and recommendations when you embark on or return from any travel.

[Virginia Department of Health: Advice for Travelers Arriving in Virginia from Countries with Widespread Sustained COVID-19 Transmission and a Level 3 Travel Health Notice](#)

[Virginia Department of Health: Advice for Travelers Arriving in Virginia from Countries with Sustained COVID-19 Transmission and a Level 2 Travel Health Notice](#)

Absences reported by parents/guardians as related to coronavirus will be excused. Please communicate with your child's school.

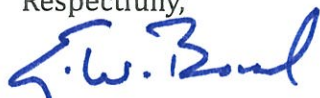
Our leadership team will be meeting on a daily basis to monitor the latest COVID-19 developments and to continue to update our management plan as necessary. We will continue to work closely with the DOH as part of this process. Current information can be accessed at: www.augusta.k12.va.us

For the latest guidance and helpful information from the CDC, the following link will be helpful: Talking with children about Coronavirus Disease 2019: Messages for parents, school staff, and others working with children<<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/schools-childcare/talking-with-children.html>>

Attached to this email you will find recommendations for alternative learning opportunities in the event of a school closure. Each school will determine when and how to share at-home learning resources and plans. The goal of this guidance is to encourage continued learning not to replace classroom instruction.

We are fortunate to have so many outstanding medical professionals in our schools, a dedicated staff and parent community, and an outstanding partnership with the local health department. We will continue to use all of these resources to help guide our decision-making and promote a safe school environment.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Eric W. Bond". The signature is stylized and cursive.

Eric W. Bond,
Superintendent

Plans for Potential School Closings
Students/Parents
March 12, 2020

Plans for Making-up Missed Time:

- ACPS currently has the equivalent of seven days remaining in “banked time”.
- As of March 12th, the Virginia Department of Education has stated that schools would need to make up the first five days missed and then make-up one day for every two subsequent days missed.

Goals/Purpose:

The purpose of this plan is to provide students with continuous learning opportunities in the event that schools are closed due to COVID-19. These learning opportunities are not in place of classroom instruction.

General Recommendations:

- While online learning platforms may continue to be used during this time, teachers understand that not all parts of the county have reliable wifi service. Alternate plans will be provided to give all students the same learning opportunities.
- Each school will decide when/how to share at-home learning resources and plans.
- Check the school website for school specific online resources.
- Schools may post video chats such as book read-alouds, science demonstrations, conversations about wellness, etc for students to view.

Recommendations for elementary schools:

- Schools may develop at-home learning bags related to current instruction including printed resources for parents and students.
- Teachers/reading specialists are encouraged to send home several appropriately leveled books from the school book room/library and may include journaling activities that require application of current comprehension strategies from provided books.
- Schools/Parents may consider an incentive for a designated number of books read at home.
- Use online resources available to your students such as ixl math and RAZ Plus for student practice.

Recommendations for middle/high schools:

- Students are encouraged to check books out from the school library to take home.
- Teachers may send home SOL review packets for each course based on materials available within the school.
- Continue to use online learning platforms and resources (IXL, Actively Learn, Google Classroom, Canvas, etc)
- Student-issued Chromebooks, chargers, and textbooks should be taken home by students.
- Teachers of each course will inform students of their class’ online learning plan if school

is disrupted and, if applicable, work with students to download appropriate resources to Chromebooks (to be used on or offline)

- Not all students will have wifi, so teachers will plan accordingly regarding alternate student work to be completed at home.
- Students are encouraged to stay in touch with teachers about possible assignments through the Remind App and Google Classroom. We understand that students may have limited access through parent or student smartphones but not have reliable wifi for completing work on their Chromebook.
- Encourage students to do enrichment activities related to their courses (Genius Hour).