This week's update includes the following:

- Welcome to new and returning GCPS staff!

- Upcoming communication and updates from schools

- Elimination of the $20 Technology Fee

- Assistance with internet connectivity for families in need

- Information from community child care providers

- Student Attendance Expectations For Remote Learning

- GCPS meal services

- Parent resources for CANVAS

Welcome to NEW and Returning GCPS staff!

On Monday, August 24, GCPS welcomed new teachers to our school community! They'll be working this week in their schools to continue their onboarding experiences to prepare for the first day of school. Also this week, on Thursday, August 27, veteran GCPS teachers return to schools and will begin contacting families with more specific information about their classes.

Upcoming Communications from Schools

Last week, each of our schools began communicating more school-specific information to families by phone and by letter. As teachers return this week, school staff will continue their communication, including:
- Schedule for device distribution to students who have indicated a need for a loaner device;
- Any orientation or "Open House" information
- Onboarding information to assist with CANVAS
- Parent resources and supports
- Student meal applications
- Other helpful information
- Communication from classroom teachers

Elimination of the $20 Technology Fee

Late last week, Virginia school divisions received clarification from the Virginia Department of Education on the administration of fees for technology in a remote learning environment. As a result of this new information, GCPS will not assess the $20 Technology Fee. Families who already have paid this fee for the 2020-21 school year will be refunded. Schools will share more specific information about other applicable fees in the near future.

Assistance With Internet Connectivity For Families In Need

GCPS has placed an initial order for MiFi ® hot-spot devices, as well as Samsung Galaxy tablets for students in Pre-Kindergarten through Grade 2. Demand for these devices remains high, and distribution during the COVID-19 pandemic may be delayed. Until then, schools will begin to contact families in need of devices to ensure that they are able to access content and participate to the fullest extent possible.

Families who have questions about internet connectivity should contact their child's school.

Families can visit Cox Communications' "Connect2Compete" website to determine if they qualify for reduced-priced broadband services in a Cox service area:

https://www.cox.com/residential/internet/connect2compete.html

The GCPS Homepage also contains information about county locations with free Wifi access. Look for the link below on our webpage:

**Gloucester County
Public WIFI Information**

Information From Community Child Care Providers

GCPS recognizes that there are important and unique child care considerations for many of our families. The Gloucester County Department of Community Engagement and Public Information (CEPI) is partnering with GCPS to assist in the compilation of a local child care directory, including providers who can support instruction. This directory will be accessible on the GCPS and CEPI websites no later than Thursday, Aug. 27.

Student Attendance Expectations For Remote Learning

All students are expected to attend and participate in as much of their scheduled school day as possible; however, GCPS is committed to supporting students whose family circumstances, childcare, family schedules, and other factors may influence the extent to which a student is able to participate in each of the scheduled interactions with teachers and staff. For instruction that is not in-person or at school, GCPS will implement the guidelines below.

Teachers will record student attendance each day, based on at least one daily meaningful interaction between the student and teacher. In other words, being "present" at school (or in a specific class), will be defined as one or more of the following meaningful interactions:

- Student participation in a synchronous online lesson or activity;
- Demonstrated evidence of engagement with peers in collaborative work;
- On-topic engagement with a teacher or peer in a discussion board for an assignment;
- Email exchange between the student and the teacher;
- Phone call or text (or other electronic means) between the student and the teacher;
- Submission of a student-completed task or assignment; and/or
- Engagement tracking (e.g. "page views") for asynchronous online lessons through the CANVAS data analytics tools.

Recording and monitoring student attendance is a critical task for schools. In accordance with Virginia Department of Education guidance, student attendance checks should be conducted on a daily basis so that data are available for each student on each school day. Meaningful interaction each day with a student may count as a daily attendance check; however, there also may be a need to determine what constitutes "in attendance" when a meaningful interaction cannot occur on a daily basis. Teachers and appropriate staff will collaborate to define the meaningful interactions or attendance checks they have with students throughout the day or week to determine student attendance each school day.

The current School Board policy for student attendance can be reviewed in the Student Code of Conduct Manual, File JFC-R.

More specific information regarding student attendance and participation expectations will be shared by your child's school and teachers.

GCPS Meal Services

- The GCPS Food Services Office is requesting information from families to assist with the timely and accurate distribution of meals. Please visit the GCPS webpage to complete the GCPS Food Service Intent Survey to help us determine whether families will order meal services. The survey closes Thursday, August 27. Thank you!

GCPS Food Service Intent Survey

- Meal delivery and "Grab & Go" pickup will begin Tuesday, September 8. Meals will be distributed from six locations each day: all five elementary schools and Gloucester High School. Daily meal delivery service will be coordinated by the GCPS Transportation Department, based upon information collected through the survey above. Families who do not desire meal delivery service may arrange for "Grab & Go" meal service from one of the six preparation locations.
- By Friday, September 4, families will be able to order meals online through the new NutriSlice app. For scheduling and coordinating meal delivery services, participation will be required for an entire week, and must be scheduled in advance. Look for more information on the GCPS Food Services webpage.

Look for and download the NutriSlice app today!

- Applications for Free and Reduced Price Meals can be completed online directly from the GCPS webpage. Direct Certification letters were mailed on August 24 to eligible families.

Visit the GCPS Food Services website for more information.

Parent resources for CANVAS

- How can parents, guardians, and other caregivers help students using the CANVAS learning management system?

Canvas Observer Guide Resource

- View the brief introductory video:

CANVAS LMS For Parents

- The GCPS Learns Anywhere Canvas Resource site has been updated with even more helpful information. Visit the GCPS homepage and look for this icon below:

CANVAS

Learning Management System

Click here to learn more!

Need online support now?

CANVAS 24/7

(877) 332-1797