

GLOUCESTER COUNTY SCHOOL BOARD

The Thomas Calhoun Walker Education Center
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For Immediate Release

Date: July 30, 2020
To: All Local Media Outlets
From: Gloucester County School Board
Subject: 20-21 School Opening Plan

Press Release

At its work session on July 28, 2020, the Gloucester County School Board voted to begin the 2020-21 school year on September 8, 2020 with fully remote learning for all students through the end of the first nine-week grading period. During its work session, the School Board reviewed a variety of survey results from staff and families, as well as current community health information provided by the Three Rivers Health District and Virginia Department of Health. This information included a discussion of the current impact of COVID-19 in the eastern region of Virginia, as well as Gloucester County, in particular. The School Board acknowledged that a return to in-person instruction is most desirable for all; however, the health and safety of students, staff, and community had to be the top priorities when making its final decision for any return-to-school plan.

Also at the School Board work session, staff introduced its proposed “Gloucester Learns Anywhere” framework, including a presentation on CANVAS, a comprehensive learning management system (LMS), which will be implemented consistently across all grade levels to facilitate school-family communication, access to learning materials, and both synchronous and asynchronous support for students. In addition, the School Board reviewed several sample school schedules

that will be refined further in the coming weeks. More detailed learning plans for Gloucester families, including expectations for remote teaching and learning, instructional supports for students and families, and device availability, will be shared in the coming weeks. Preliminary details for students and families will be published on Tuesday, August 4, with additional information published on Tuesday, August 11.

Throughout August, families will be able to contact staff at each of Gloucester's schools, Monday-Thursday, from 7:30 AM – 4:30 PM for additional information, including new student registration. Each of the five elementary schools is eager to register new Kindergarten students, and families seeking preschool enrollment or other Early Childhood Education opportunities can visit <https://gets.gc.k12.va.us/early-childhood-education> for more information.