



July 30, 2020

Good Afternoon Railroaders,

I would like to share some important information for our students and parents.

At last night's Board of Education meeting, the Board decided that student instruction for the first semester of the 2020-21 school year, which begins Monday, August 31, will occur in a full virtual format for students enrolled in Frederick County Public Schools.

During last spring's school building closure, FCPS gathered student, parent, and educator feedback and has worked to improve the virtual learning experience through the following enhancements:

- Increased live virtual interactions between students and educators*
- A single digital platform for students and parents to access instruction, communication, and feedback*
- Robust professional learning opportunities for educators to increase their skill set for teaching in a virtual environment, which includes on-demand professional learning videos and courses for educators*
- Student training videos that will enhance their abilities to access and learn in a virtual environment*
- Strategies to focus on individual student needs*
- Continued efforts to ensure every child can connect digitally*

In the FCPS Full Virtual Learning Model, students access learning online instead of face to face in a school building. They will engage in a combination of real-time virtual instruction, instruction on an individual schedule, and completion of assigned tasks. In addition to teachers and school counselors, online learning mentors will also support students, offering designated office hours.

The full virtual model differs from the Continuity of Learning format in effect last spring when grades were either Pass (P) or Incomplete (ICOL). In the 2020-21 school year, FCPS expects more rigorous coursework with the full grading system in effect.

FCPS is strongly positioned to teach students in a virtual environment and looks forward to further preparations for a safe and productive 2020-21 school year. I will continue to provide more details in the coming weeks.

The Board of Education has charged staff to identify targeted small groups of students to participate in face-to-face instruction to support

individualized educational needs, to ensure access to virtual options, and to address specific courses requiring in person instruction.

More information will be provided to parents regarding these options. Parents/guardians will ultimately reserve the right to decline these services if they have concerns regarding their child's health in a face-to-face FCPS school building. Specific health measures will be in place to protect the health of both students and staff.

What does this mean for our students at Brunswick High School?

The Administration, Counselors, Teachers and Staff are fully committed to providing the most meaningful experience possible for our students. This includes engagement in and beyond the virtual classroom. Our staff understand the importance of building relationships and connecting with our students. Although this format will present challenges, we are exploring ways to keep our student groups, clubs, and other activities connected. You are the heart of our school! We continue to be #OneSchoolNoLimits.

The planning for virtual learning has begun. Our staff will be united and well equipped to deliver high quality instruction for all students.

In the upcoming weeks we will be sharing student schedules, back-to-school information, and informative videos for students and parents. It is recommended that our students and parents connect with our social media accounts for the most up to date information. As the building Principal, I utilize Find Out First and also my Twitter page @MichaelDillman.

This will be a learning experience for us all. As a parent of three children, I too understand the challenges you may experience as we navigate the year. The BHS staff is committed to providing an engaging, yet safe, learning environment. Please reach out to a member of the administrative team this summer if you have specific questions or concerns.

Stay tuned for more information throughout the month of August and be sure to refer to one or many of our social media accounts for up to date information.

Sincerely,

Michael Dillman
Principal