



Georgia Elementary & Middle School

April 7, 2020



Dear Georgia Families and Students!

What a year! It seems like both just yesterday and years ago that we were walking on the sidewalk on the first day of school to the encouraging sidewalk art from our PTCO. No one could have predicted our current reality on that beautiful fall day.

I want to thank each and every one of you for doing the best you can during these difficult times for working to partner with our teachers as we transition to virtual or remote learning. This is brand new territory for all of us and our teachers are working in incredible ways during this high stress time to maintain connection with our students and support their growth as young adolescents.

Parent feedback has been incredibly helpful as we move into this new landscape for learning. One of the areas that was identified by parents was that they would appreciate it if we would consolidate our communications as much as possible as too many emails added stress. In an attempt to streamline our communications and connections to families, I am starting a weekly newsletter. I hope you find it to be a helpful resource. Secondly, we have added a teacher advisor for each student to be liaison and go-to person for students and families. They will be in the homeroom Google Meets this week and will start to regularly check-in with students next week.

Remember, during these unprecedented times, above all else the health and well-being of you and your family matters most. Please take care of yourself during this time and let us know how we can support you!

~ *Principal Conrad*

Meals

We are now able to offer FREE breakfast and lunch to all Georgia residents. Please go to our website to complete the form. We are lucky to have Corrina, our amazing paraprofessionals, and our Terricel bus drivers working with us to deliver these meals daily along our bus routes. Special thanks also to Terry Shaw and Shawn Allard for their daily assistance in our meal delivery.



Continuity of Learning

As we move from the Governor's required maintenance of learning period, we are moving into working to determine how to teach new content remotely. As you know from teacher communications, we will begin to use some video conferencing with students but all new teaching will happen through pre-recorded video. It would be unfair and unreasonable to expect that every student would have both the internet access and availability to attend class at a particular time. Some of our students have limited access, others none at all, and some of our students are taking care of siblings as their parents continue to work.

As such, we will not be formally assessing or testing students during this remote or virtual learning period. It would be impossible to ensure that those assessments would be valid. Students will be asked to self-assess themselves daily on one of our Transferable Skill Proficiencies. Teachers will provide weekly feedback on those self-assessments. Content learning targets will still be taught and feedback will be given to students as they work toward developing their proficiencies to those targets.

More information can be found:

[FWSU's Continuity of Learning Plan for Parents](#)

[FWSU's Continuity of Learning Website](#)

Guidance Resources



Check out this [Webpage](#) from the GEMS School Counselors, Mr. Malinowski and Mrs. Fisher! It includes resources for parents, fun activities for students AND a link for students or parents to make an appointment (via phone or email) with either of the Counselors. This link is also found on our website under the COVID-19 section.

Our school psychologist also is publishing a [Tuesday Tips Newsletter](#). Check it out!

8th Grade Graduation and Classtrip

We are deeply saddened about missing the end of the school year with all our students, but particularly mourn the loss of end of year activities with our 8th graders. As we get closer to the end of the school year, we will make announcements about graduation and the class trip. It is likely that they will need to look very different than we had been planning for. We will communicate as soon as we can about changes in dates and plans.

*No matter what the future holds,
we will make sure we find a way to honor our 8th graders!*



Lockers

We are currently limiting access to our building only to the main office area. We will be working with our custodial staff later this spring to coordinate locker clean outs.

Home Art Studio

Please take a few minutes to fill out [this link](#) so that Ms. Wolfson can get an idea of what materials you may or may not have available to you at home. This will help her plan future home art projects! If you have any questions, you may email her at Sara Wolfson at swolfson@fwsu.org.