



## WAKE COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOL SYSTEM

### WILLOW SPRINGS YEAR-ROUND ELEMENTARY

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Hi Baby Bengal families,

I hope this email finds you doing well! The decision on Tuesday by the WCPSS Board of Education to move to online learning to start the new school year, has obviously impacted all of us. We are working at the school level now to adapt to this new plan. I hope the information below is helpful to you, and we will continue to update you with more details as we get closer to the beginning of the school year.

#### **Starting School Remotely**

The decision was made for all students at Willow Springs Elementary to begin the school year with online instruction on August 17. We do not have any regional special education programs here at The Willow, so please note that CCR students will also begin in remote learning.

The district also announced that their hope is to bring students back in the building as soon as practical for face-to-face instruction for those not enrolled in the Virtual Academy. Of course, the return of any student to campus is contingent upon the ability to provide a safe learning environment and the current situation related to the spread of COVID-19. We are very hopeful that this can happen soon!

#### **Technology Needs and Distribution**

We encourage you to assess your child's access to a working device and determine if you will need one for him or her. It is difficult for students to share with siblings or with parents, and we have found that ipads and tablets are not effective for our learning platform. Laptops and desktops work fine, just as long as they are not older, slower machines. Your child will need to be able to watch videos and engage in live instruction, so if you are not sure, please request a device for your child. Parents have received a survey from WCPSS regarding any technology needs, and they are asking that all parents complete the survey for each child, since all students will participate in some form of remote learning. (Even if you do not need one.) The distribution of Chromebooks and internet hotspot devices will be handled directly through the WCPSS Technology Department – not the school. Here is the link:

<https://takehometech.wcpss.net/>

#### **Update for the WCPSS Virtual Academy**

We will all start school remotely, but if you have decided that you would like your child to attend online for the entire year, the county will open up the enrollment window one final time on **July 27** at 12:01 am and it will remain open through **July 29** at 5:00 pm. You can access updated information and the enrollment link here: [VA Website](#).

If you previously enrolled but wish to change your choice and unenroll, then you will need to call the school at 919-557-2770 by July 29, so that we can unenroll you. Keep in mind that if

you choose to unenroll in Virtual Academy, then your child will be expected to attend school face-to-face when we transition back to Plan B.

I want to thank you for your patience as we navigate through these latest changes. We are trying to adapt to new information as quickly as possible, and put into place a plan that provides your child a positive environment and opportunity to learn. I hope to be able to share updated teacher assignments with you the first week of August, as well as information on Meet the Teacher options. I am thankful for the tremendous support from our school community!

Please don't hesitate to reach out if you have any additional questions. Please stay safe, stay cool, and stay tuned for more information to come!

Camille Miller  
Principal

