

Parent Communication 10.2.2020

Brooks Families,

We hope you've had a fantastic week! Can you believe it's October already? Below you'll find updates for the coming week as well as key reminders.

Preparing for the Return of Students

On Tuesday, our school board approved a plan to return students that selected Plan B to in-person instruction. Below are the dates for student return.

- Pre-K – 3rd grade and special education regional programs students will **return in 3-week cohort rotations starting on October 26th.**
- Pre-K – 3rd grade and special education regional programs students will **return in person DAILY starting November 16th.**
- 4th – 5th grade students will **return in 3-week cohort rotations starting November 16th and continuing through the end of the first semester.**

You will receive information next week regarding the cohort assignment of your student(s).

Starting next week, I will begin sharing information regarding the details of our reopening. This will include updates on protocols, processes and expectations that will be implemented upon the return of students. Please make sure to familiarize yourself with this information, as much of it will help maintain the safety and well-being of ALL individuals on our campus.

Remote Learning Days

During Tuesday's School Board meeting, the board approved the addition of asynchronous learning days to our current calendar. We will refer to these days as "Remote Learning Days" to maintain consistency of language across the district. Since the beginning of virtual learning, parents have expressed concern to school and district leaders regarding the amount of screen time that is being required of students. In response to this, the district has approved the addition of a full day of asynchronous learning each week. During these days, students will engage in mostly asynchronous activities for up to 3 hours.

Both teachers and students should benefit from the addition of these days because this provides the time needed to engage in tasks that will hopefully support their success in teaching and learning. For teachers, this includes, but is not limited to, more time for grading and providing feedback to students, meeting with small groups or individual students that may need additional support and engaging in planning with their grade levels to create robust lessons to deliver to students. Students will benefit from this time because it may allow them the opportunity to engage in small group or individual work with their teachers. Additionally, they will not have the daily required live instruction in any subject

area, so it allows time for students to get caught up on their work or take a much-needed break from technology.

Operationally, let me share a few details about remote learning days to support a common understanding between school and home.

- Teachers have the flexibility to engage in live small group or 1:1 work with students to meet their academic needs. Teachers will **NOT** have office hours on these days.
- Students should be given asynchronous learning assignments consistent with other days. **This means up to 3 hours of independent instruction.**
- Attendance must be recorded on asynchronous days because it is an instructional day. This should be handled through work submitted or a brief check in opportunity.

The district will begin district-wide “Remote Learning Days” starting the week of October 26th. Principals have been given the discretion to schedule these days for their individual school until the week of October 26th. Therefore, “Remote Learning Days” for Brooks will be added on Wednesdays until the week of October 26th. After that week, we will follow the district plan which will be to **continue these days on Wednesdays of each week, where there is not already an interruption to the week. The dates for our Wednesday “Remote Learning Days” are listed below:**

- Week of October 5 - **October 7 remote learning day**
- Week of October 12 - **October 14 remote learning day**
- Week of October 19 - not a full week - no remote learning day
- Week of October 26 - we'll follow the district plan

We are hopeful that the addition of this day will be beneficial to both students and teachers.

From the Desk of Ms. Pruette, Media Coordinator

After months of closure, the Brooks library will be open for business beginning Tuesday, October 13th. Brooks families will be able to use our online catalog, Destiny Discover, to place books on hold. Once your books are ready, you will receive an email notifying you to pick up your books. Books will be held for 1 week. Pick up is no-contact, Tuesday-Thursday 10-2pm in the bus loop. Books will be placed on carts with your student’s WakeID #. There will also be a crate for returning books. Families can begin placing holds this week.

[Video tutorial - How to Hold a Book](#)

[Visual Guide - How to Hold a Book](#)

School Campus

Recently, we've had a rise in the number of individuals on our school campus during the instructional day. This includes students of all age ranges, as well as adults. During a "normal" school year, individuals are not permitted on campus unless they work here, or they are a parent/guardian that is here to take care of business inside the school. Although we do not have a building full of students at this current time, staff and staff children are present daily, therefore, the same guidance applies. Visitors cannot be on campus. If a visitor is observed on campus by a staff member and they are not here to conduct business regarding a student that is enrolled in the school, they will be promptly asked to leave so we can maintain the safety of everyone inside our building. Thank you for your understanding.

REMINDERS

Technology Needs

If you are continuing to experience technology difficulties or something arises throughout the day, please don't hesitate to contact the WCPSS Technology Help Desk at 919-694-8100. WCPSS Technology Services has also created a support page for families experiencing difficulties or needing support to learn new tech tools. You can access their website [here](#).

Join Memberhub

If you're looking for ways to get connected with the PTA and other Brooks families, join Memberhub! The Brooks PTA uses Memberhub as a means of communication with families throughout the year. This platform is used to send out the PTA's weekly newsletter, provide fundraising updates, provide information regarding volunteer opportunities, and other school-wide information. Please click here to join: <https://brooks.new.memberhub.store/store>.

Thank you for your continued support as we navigate the challenges of continuing to adapt to the present circumstances. We could not do this without your support and partnership. Thank you for continuing to extend grace and flexibility to our school staff. They are working hard to make online learning a positive experience for every student. We know you are working hard, too. You are appreciated.

Marie Palmer, Principal