



Monday, March 30

Dear DCPS Community,

As we enter the second week of learning at home, I want to share my appreciation for your patience, flexibility, and understanding as our district enters unexpected and uncharted territory and our classrooms move to our homes.

Thanks to social media, I was able to watch students [joyfully answer a Fun Family Question of the Day](#), [thoughtfully explain their work](#), and [enthusiastically engage in a Socratic Seminar](#). We continue to provide free meals each weekday to all students and [our food and nutrition staff](#) has served more than 34,000 meals to date, including to-go breakfast and lunch.

Over the past few days, I also saw how [our educators are creating activities to serve our students with special needs](#) and how [principals are adjusting to a new digital world](#). I also appreciate the collaboration of our agency partners as we [open school spaces to support childcare for the District's healthcare workforce](#).

At the same time, we also know there have been hurdles along the way as our teachers, our schools, and our families work to navigate new circumstances. DC Public Schools is here to support you, and we do not expect parents and guardians to take the place of our expert educators.

It can be challenging to know where to start to support your student's learning, so we created this [video to walk you through the online learning portal](#).

We will continue to provide curated and high-quality materials to keep students engaged and connected to their new school routine. We are also working with educators to ensure that all learning opportunities are taped rather than live so that the learning resources are accessible as possible to all families. Additionally, high schoolers will receive information this week about how to receive their learning at home technology device.

Lastly, don't forget that printed materials for the next two weeks of learning at home will be available at your school on March 31 and April 1 from 8:30 am to 2:00 pm.

As the situation progresses, we will continue to share information with the entire DCPS community and learn together how to best serve our students during this time.

Term 3 Grading

DCPS recognizes that students have different levels of access and support while experiencing learning at home and we will ensure students' grades are not negatively impacted because of this. Teachers are offering students multiple opportunities to display mastery and engagement, and any work completed can only help a students' academic status. Students should submit work as directed by their teacher, and all students will have until Friday, May 1 to submit any remaining assignments for term 3.

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- For Elementary students in grades K – 5, teachers will prepare assignments and activities that keep students engaged during the learning at home period. For each week of learning at home, teachers will grade student work. These grades will be averaged into a student’s term 3 grade and used only to improve a student’s overall standing. If a student is unable to complete term 3 assignments, they will receive the grade they earned as of March 13.
 - For Secondary students in grades 6 – 12, weekly extra credit assignments will be graded. Teachers may also offer opportunities for students to repair or improve previously graded assignments through new tasks. While students may be encouraged to turn in extra credit work on a regular schedule for feedback, all work is due on May 1, and a student’s academic status will not be adversely impacted for assignments not completed.

For more information, please review the [Learning at Home Grading FAQ](#).

High School Supports

DCPS is partnering with the Office of the State Superintendent of Education (OSSE) to evaluate graduation requirements. An update will be shared with our families as soon as it is available.

In recent weeks, all 9th, 10th and 11th grade, as well as Certificate-track (C1 to C3), families received the [Student Guide to Graduation, Career, and College](#) both in the mail and via the [Aspen parent portal](#). If you are not familiar with the parent portal, please [review these resources on how to navigate this tool](#).

I encourage you to take this time to review the guide with your family and explore action steps your student should take on the path to graduation, as well as college and career opportunities that are aligned to their interests. For any questions on the Guide, please email dcpsguide@k12.dc.gov.

Students in grades 8-12 are also encouraged to explore [virtual community service opportunities](#) during this period of learning at home. All completed service hours count toward the 100 hours required for graduation.

Enrollment

DCPS is proud to serve more than 51,000 students and we look forward to launching School Year 2020-2021 (SY20-21) with your family. All families who participated in the My School DC lottery received their results on Friday, March 27. Due to learning at home, families will now have until Wednesday, May 27 (one month after DCPS school buildings are scheduled to reopen) to enroll and claim their seat. As a reminder, all families are always guaranteed a seat at their [in-boundary school](#) for grades K through 12.

We are committed to opening enrollment as soon as possible to best serve our families and welcome new students to our community. In-person enrollment will begin when school buildings reopen, and DCPS is developing an electronic submission option for SY20-21 in accordance with OSSE regulations. We hope to have this option available to families in the coming weeks.

For more information about enrollment, please visit enrolldcps.dc.gov or email enroll@k12.dc.gov.

Find Out More

If you’re looking for more information, I encourage you to take the following steps:

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- Reach out to your school principal and teachers about ways that your school is supporting learning at home.
 - Learn more about what technology companies are doing [to expand internet access](#) and Wi-Fi hotspots around town.
 - Check out answers to [Frequently Asked Questions](#) and other DCPS updates at dcps.dc.gov/coronavirus.
 - Visit coronavirus.dc.gov/food for information on meal sites across the city, including how to get there via Metrorail or Metrobus.
 - Learn more about the District of Columbia Government's response to coronavirus (COVID-19) by visiting coronavirus.dc.gov.
 - Email CEO.info@k12.dc.gov or call 202-442-5885 if you have additional questions.

By working together, we can support the success of our students and [slow the spread of COVID-19 through social distancing](#). Thank you for your partnership in this effort.

With appreciation,

Lewis D. Ferebee, Ed.D.
Chancellor
DC Public Schools