

Dear DCPS Community,

Over the past month, we have seen our city and our schools adapt to new daily routines, new classroom settings, and new ways to deliver instruction. What has not waivered is our commitment at DC Public Schools (DCPS) to provide our students and families with an education grounded in serving the whole child.

Last week, we held our first session of [Parent University](#), where I joined families to discuss managing stress as adults at this time. We want you to know that there is no right or wrong way to navigate this process and that we will be here to support you every step of the way. We continue to collaborate with our agency partners to distribute meals to students across the district and beginning this week 10 of our school meal sites will also provide groceries to families in need. Select “Meal Sites for All DC Students” at coronavirus.dc.gov/food for locations and times.

Today, I am writing to share calendar updates for April along with additional learning at home resources for your family.

April Schedule

We continue to work closely with DC Health and Mayor Bowser to determine when schools may reopen. **Based on current modeling of the COVID-19 outbreak, it is not realistic that DC Public Schools will open as planned on April 27, and we will continue learning at home for the time being.** We hope to share more information about the school year calendar in the coming days.

This week, printed packets with learning at home lessons will be available for students. Your school will be in touch with more information about how to receive hard copy resources to support your student’s learning.

We will continue to observe Emancipation Day on **Thursday, April 16**. As a result, **no learning at home lessons will take place on April 16 but meal sites will remain open**. It is also a holiday for teachers and staff.

Term 3 will end on Friday, April 24, which will be a Records Day and Professional Development Day for teachers. **No learning at home will take place on April 24 but meal sites will be open**. For more information on term 3 grades, please review the [term 3 frequently asked questions](#).

Learning at Home Resources

As we continue learning at home, I encourage you to explore these resources:

- Watch “Fun with Phonics” videos on TV every weekday from 9:30 to 11:00 a.m. or from 1:00 to 2:30 p.m. These videos are a great way for your student to continue to develop early literacy skills and are available on Comcast (Channel 99), RCN (Channel 18), Verizon (Channel 12), or on the [DCPS YouTube channel](#).

-
- The [DC Public Library](#) has put together resources and is offering opportunities for residents to receive a temporary library card.
 - The [Smithsonian Learning Lab](#) has opportunities for students of all ages, including tools aligned to the DCPS curriculum.
 - The Washington Teachers' Union is sharing [daily video lessons](#) across a number of content areas.
 - Reminder: Through the [DCPS Learning at Home portal on Canvas](#), we have created learning plans and digital resources by grade and content area.

For our high school students, check out these opportunities to continue to prepare for college and career:

- Review your individualized Student Guide to Graduation, Career, and College, which is available on the parent portal. Review this video on [how to access the Guide](#) as well as [frequently asked questions](#) about this important tool!
- [Khan Academy](#) is offering SAT prep courses including 8 full-length practice exams.
- The [College Board Daily Practice App](#) provides opportunities to build your skills and receive immediate feedback. Students can download the app via the Apple App Store or Google Play.
- You can review DCPS' [Frequently Asked Questions about SAT and AP testing](#).
- Reminder: In response to COVID-19, the College Board is developing AP exams that students will take from home. The 2020 AP exams will be given May 11-22 and June 1-5 and will be 45 minutes long and open book/open note. For more information, please visit [The College Board website](#).

We may not be able to greet you at our school buildings every morning, but our educators, school leaders, and staff remain committed to making sure that your child engages in meaningful and joyful learning every day. We look forward to continuing to partner with you as we navigate this public health crisis together.

In partnership,

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