

August 17, 2020



Greetings Parents/Guardians and Students,

WELCOME to school year 2020-21 where we take **PRIDE** in being a HORNET! It has been my prayer that everyone that is a part of the FHHS family is safe and well. It is so hard to believe how the school year ended and how we will start this school year. My staff and I have truly missed seeing students, parents, and community members come to the school. While we are in the business of educating, our priority is the safety of our students and staff.

As you probably already know, the school year will be taught virtually. The first day of distance learning will be August 31, 2020 and will continue through to January 29, 2021. This means that the entire first and second quarters or 1st Semester, will be conducted online. With strong parental support teamed up with our hard working, energetic and creative FHHS teaching staff, it is our intention that each child will receive a high quality education during this time away from the school building. In other words, though the setting is different, the standard of excellence is the same.

As we move into this virtual school year, my staff and I look forward to welcoming all students to FHHS. It is vital the school community, parents, teachers, administrators and most especially students, work collaboratively toward the goal of a high school diploma. Ninth graders, in particular, must understand from the very beginning of high school that each and every class paves the road to graduation day. It is important that all students understand that even though we are not face to face, they are still earning credits towards meeting the Maryland State Department of Education graduation requirements to receive their high school diploma.

SCHOOL YEAR 20-21

We understand that everyone has concerns and might be anxious about what this year may bring with the many changes that are happening due to COVID-19. This year will present unique opportunities and challenges for all of us. Our staff is committed to making the best of this situation and ensuring all students at FHHS are provided with the best education. *Please note the following: ***In preparation for your return, we have had to make some tough decisions around our virtual course offerings. Many seniors will have a condensed schedule that allows them to take only courses required for graduation. The master schedule has been designed to accommodate virtual and hybrid learning if we should return to face to face instruction for the second semester. Therefore, based on limited room and flexibility in the master schedule, only students with errors in their schedule will be allowed to request a change in course for SY21. All schedule changes request must be sent via email and must be approved by the administration.***

REGISTRATION

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic and school closures, Prince George's County Public School (PGCPS) registration is to be completed online. ***If your child did not attend FHHS last school year, you must complete registration online, click on the link below.*** If you require assistance with online registration, please contact our main office at (301) 925.1360, Monday and Wednesday between the hours of 8:00 AM to 3:30PM. In-person registration is by appointment only. [Registration/Enrollment](#)

SCHOOLMAX FAMILY PORTAL CONTACT

Usage of the SchoolMax family portal will be critical in monitoring student progress during the distance learning portion of the school year. It is the expectation that all parents/guardians/students monitor the Schoolmax Family Portal to ensure understanding of your child's grades and attendance. Ms. Johnyce Spriggs, Guidance Administrative Assistant can be reached through her email at johnyce.spriggs@pgcps.org to assist with login information for the family portal.

TROUBLE LOGGING INTO TO EMAIL

If your child has any problem with logging into their PGCPS email account then they will need to contact Ms. Yvette Green @ yvette.green@pgcps.org. Students must use their PGCPS email accounts and not their personal email addresses.

TRANSCRIPT REQUESTS

All transcripts request must go through the website pgcpsmd.scriborder.com

DAILY A/B DAY VIRTUAL SCHEDULE

Check school website

PGCPS SCHOOL CALENDAR SY 20-21

Click here: [2020-2021](#)

SUPPLY LIST Grades 9-12 (these are the suggested items for parents to purchase for their children)

| | | | |
|----------------------|----------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------|
| scissors | glue bottle or glue stick according to identified course | composition books or spiral notebooks | index cards |
| pencils with erasers | water based markers | 3-hole pocket folder | pens |
| pencil sharpener | 3 ring binder (to be shared for all classes) | highlighters | construction paper |
| ruler | loose leaf lined notebook paper | Post-it notes | primary color paints (red, yellow, blue, black and white) |

MATERIALS/TECHNOLOGY DISTRIBUTION DAY

In an effort to ensure our students are prepared for the first day of school, we have scheduled a date and time for Chromebooks and supplies to be distributed to students. Please arrive at the scheduled time for your child's grade level. During distribution day, everyone must wear a mask and stay in your car. **Please check the school's website for more information.**

****SPECIAL NOTE:** Nationally, there has been a high demand for the procurement of electronic devices, which has resulted in delay of receiving them for PGCPS. We have placed an order for our students and are awaiting delivery. If your child is currently utilizing a personal device in the home, we ask that they continue to do so until our order is received. We anticipate that additional devices will be available by September 21, 2020. Once received, you will be notified of the date and time scheduled for you to pick up a device. Your understanding is appreciated.

DRESS CODE/UNIFORM EXPECTATION

During the distance learning phase of instruction (August 31 - January 29) students are not expected to wear a school uniform. Students must adhere to the system-wide dress code which requires students to dress appropriately. Further details can be found in the Student Rights and Responsibilities Handbook. When a decision is made concerning the reopening of schools, individual schools, with

uniform policies, will determine the feasibility of continuing the school year with or without a uniform as it may be difficult to acquire school uniform attire midyear.

BREAKFAST/LUNCH

Although students will not be on campus while receiving virtual instruction, we understand the importance of having nutritious meals. Prince George’s County Public Schools is dedicated to making sure that no child goes hungry during this time. Just as in the spring and summer, FHHS will be providing breakfast and lunch for students during this time of distance learning. Students will be allowed to pick up breakfast and lunch from our Hornet Cafe (backside) at Door 30 on Mondays and Thursdays. Students will have to put in their PIN numbers in order to receive their meals.

Free and reduced lunch applications are available online at [Free and Reduced Lunch Application](#)

| | Daily | Weekly | Monthly |
|-----------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| Reduced Breakfast | No Cost to Students | No Cost to Students | No Cost to Students |
| Full Priced Breakfast | \$1.60 | \$8.00 | \$32.00 |
| Reduced Lunch | No Cost to Students | No Cost to Students | No Cost to Students |
| Full Priced Lunch | \$3.00 | \$15.00 | \$60.00 |

PARENT CENTER

PGCPS heard from parents and guardians during the implementation of distance learning this past Spring 2020; Assistance was needed in the areas of technology, instruction, as well as other supports. Below listed is the FHHS strategically designated location where parents can receive assistance with technology, accessing and navigating platforms, and other troubleshooting beginning September 1, 2020. Days/Times: Tuesdays/Thursdays, 8:00am-10:00am and 6:00pm-8:00pm. **Location: G. James Gholson Middle School--900 Nalley Road, Landover, MD 20785**

COMMUNICATION

It is going to be very important that parents, guardians, students and the FHHS community follow us on social media to get all the updates. These are the following ways to stay tuned to all FHHS updates:

1. Sign up for Text Messages and Email Alerts on our school's (should this be the PGPCS website?) website under the Learn, Connect and Partner With Us; Sign up for school email and text message alerts. Make sure you select Fairmont Heights High School to receive text and email notifications.
2. Follow Fairmont Heights High School on TWITTER-Fairmont Heights HORNETS @hornetsleader for highlights and upcoming events, follow FHHS on Instragram@FHHSTV, school website [Fairmont Heights School Website](#), REMIND: <https://remind.com/join/hornetfami> and YouTube FHHSTV.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION/DATES: MARK YOUR CALENDAR

- Attendance will be closely monitored by teachers, administration and Pupil Personnel Worker.
- **Friday, August 21, 2020** Parents and students will have access to Schoolmax Family Portal.
- **Friday, August 28, 2020** Systemic Mock/Orientation for ***9th-12th graders***. More information to come. Please check the FHHS website. The purpose of the Mock/Orientation is to familiarize students, parents and guardians, with procedures for virtual learning. Students and parents/guardians will log into their student's first period class and will be greeted by the teacher. It is important that all families participate during orientation in order to receive pertinent information.
- **Monday, August 31, 2020:** First Day of School for all students
- **Monday, September 7, 2020:** Schools and Offices Closed (Labor Day Holiday)
- **Thursday, September 17/24, 2020:** Back to School Night. More information to come. Parents will have the opportunity to meet teachers and obtain information about course expectations. *Parents this is not Parent Teacher Conference night. You will have to make an appointment if you would like to discuss specific topics of concern with teachers.
- **Friday, September 25, 2020:** Professional Development – Schools Closed for Students
- **September 28, 2020:** Yom Kippur Holiday* – Schools and Offices Closed

- **Monday, October 12, 2020:** Native American Day & Parent-Teacher Conferences – Schools Closed for Students
- **Friday, October 16, 2020:** Professional Development – Schools Closed for Students
- **Tuesday, November 3, 2020:** Election Day – Schools and Offices Closed
- **Thursday, November 5, 2020:** Election Day – Schools and Offices Closed
- **Friday, November 6, 2020: Professional Day for Teachers – 2-Hr. Early Dismissal for Students**
- **Wednesday-Friday, November 25-27, 2020:** Thanksgiving Holidays – Schools and Offices Closed

In conclusion, we thank you for your willingness to follow the procedures and expectations during these times. As we continue to navigate through our new “normal”, it is paramount that **WE** continue to work together as a family. I would like to welcome you all to the start of an exciting new school year! It is truly a pleasure to have this opportunity to work with each of you and your child or children. Stay encouraged and stay safe.

Sincerely,

Torrie S. Walker
Principal