

**SUBJECT: Continuity of Learning, April 13 – May 22**

Dear High School Students and Families:

First, we hope you are staying safe in this challenging time.

The word “normal” may seem like an unrealistic goal in so many aspects of our lives right now. We want you to know, however, that all of our educators are working very hard to provide students with learning experiences that will be, as much as possible, as engaging, interesting and enriching as those normally provided to them.

Our goal is to design and provide a continuity of learning for this spring. We want all students to be able to extend their learning beyond where they were when schools closed, and we want to maintain a strong partnership with you.

Spring break (April 6-10) will continue to be a period of time without academic work expectations for students.

We have developed a Continuity of Learning Handbook for our high schools that details the process and procedures we are beginning on **Monday, April 13**. These guidelines are emergency measures based on those set forth by the Virginia Department of Education with regard to continuity of learning in response to the governor’s decision to close all schools for the remainder of the 2019-2020 school year. The emphasis for Albemarle County Public Schools during this time, as always, is to provide equitable access to instruction for all students.

More detailed information can be found in the handbook with respect to the following topics:

**Continuity of Learning Options:** Students and families may choose one of three options for continuity of learning:

- Spring 2020 Virtual Learning Continuity
- July 2020 Learning Continuity
- 2020-21 School Year

Our recommendation is that all students choose the **Spring 2020** option. Details of each option are available in the handbook. All three of these options will be comparable in the quality of the learning experiences they offer to students as well as the time required to complete the learning work. Parents should carefully review each option and make the choice that best meets the needs of your student. In reaching your decision, please talk with your child’s principal if you need to choose the July 2020 or 2020-2021 School Year option. Your child’s principal will be eager to help you review and consider these options and to answer any of your questions to support your student’s academic and personal growth.

**Weekly Learning Time/Total Learning Plan:** For each course, students should expect approximately 1.5 to 2 hours of learning **per week** (3 hours for AP and DE courses), aligned with our existing [Homework Policy](#) guidelines. *There is no expectation that this is full-time school.* Over the six-week period, students should expect two to five key learning objectives and a maximum of five cumulative assignments **per course**. These assignments should be completed by **May 29** in order to finalize each class and have final grades released for each course.

***Virtual Class Meetings and Office Hours:*** Schools may choose to offer virtual class meetings during the closure. These meetings shall be limited to 30 minutes per week, per class. Students will be invited to participate in virtual class meetings. There is no expectation that students must participate in online full-class meetings during their scheduled time. Instead, all meetings will be recorded and students may access meetings via links provided. In addition, teachers will host online sessions as office hours to support students by answering questions and providing feedback on assignments. Office hours are not intended to provide direct instruction to students. They are merely intended to provide support for students.

***Accommodations and Additional Supports:*** Accommodations and additional supports will be provided as required to students eligible for special education services (and IEP) or for those students with a Section 504 Plan. Additionally, special educators and related service providers will collaborate with teachers, sharing the available options to support students through resources via phone, email, or virtual conferencing.

***Access to Learning Resources:*** Students can access learning resources online by going to their high school's website. Details about options for students with limited or no internet access can be found in the handbook.

***Evaluation and Feedback:*** Students should know that Standards of Learning (SOL) tests, CTE industry exams, and final exams will not take place this academic year. Work submitted during the closure will be evaluated and feedback will be provided, but no numerical or letter grades will be assigned.

***Final Grades:*** Details about final grade options can be found in the handbook. As a reminder, all students who were on track to be promoted to the next grade level when schools were closed will be able to be promoted.

We know this is a new learning environment for both our students and teachers. We want to again thank you all for your patience and support. Please know that we will be flexible and do our best to support students in this new learning environment. Please do not hesitate to reach out if you have questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

Darah Bonham, Principal, Albemarle High

Rick Vrhovac, Principal, Monticello High

Chad Ratliff, Principal, Murray High

Patrick McLaughlin, Principal, Western Albemarle High