



COLUMBUS COUNTY SCHOOLS

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May 11, 2020

Dear Elementary Parents/Guardians,

The last several weeks have been a unique experience for all. We have been learning right along with you and your child. Each week during our school building closure we have adjusted our original plans from the time the Governor announced the original closure for our schools. We moved from the face to face learning in our buildings to the remote learning in your homes. We want to thank you for taking the time to work with your children and for encouraging them to stay engaged with school. We believe it is vital to each student's academic growth and their future that they continue to learn even though they are not in the school buildings each day. Therefore, our educators are spending many hours creating learning experiences for your children and trying to find resources and tools that make the learning engaging.

As you have heard the Governor has made an executive order to keep our school buildings closed for the remainder of this school year. With this new order, we will continue our remote learning plan and make learning experiences as engaging and beneficial for students until the school year ends on May 22, 2020. As stated above, we want students to gain as much academic progress as possible in this unique situation. The State Board of Education has decided that elementary school students will not receive final grades for this year. The State Board did indicate that each teacher must provide feedback on the progress of each student for the parents. Our schools will be providing a Columbus County Schools Elementary Remote Learning Progress document for your child once the school year is completed. This information will help you to know where your child is related to the standards of their grade level. If a student is retained this year, the school staff has had conversations with parents prior to the March 13, 2020 closure and they will continue those conversations prior to the end of the school year.

The most important part of this letter is that we need students to continue to learn and engage with their teachers until the end of the year. We are working with students to continue their academic development. Next year, students will move to the next grade level and what they were intended to learn this year will be necessary for success next year. We want our students to be prepared for the next grade level and ultimately prepared for middle school, high school and post-graduation. If they miss standards in a grade level, reaching those goals will be more difficult. Therefore, we need you to continue to partner with us. Please continue to encourage and require your child to participate in the daily instruction until May 22. Thank you for your support in this unique time.

Sincerely,

Deanne Meadows, Ed.D
Superintendent