

Spartan Virtual Learning Newsletter
West Springfield High School
Volume 2, Issue #19 December 18, 2020

Happy Holidays

This will be the last issue of Spartan Virtual Learning News for 2020. We will send our next newsletter after the return from winter break. Happy Holidays!

Bell Schedule Change Planned for January 12, 2021

Each year, the Office of Transportation Services reviews the bell schedules for all Fairfax County public schools and makes minor adjustments as necessary to improve on-time arrivals.

As you can imagine, developing this school year’s bell schedule has been extremely challenging due to the pandemic.

You may remember that new school bell schedules were announced in July. Our school’s bell schedule was changed. However, given the all-virtual start to the school year, there was no need to implement the new bell schedule.

At the School Board Work session on December 10, Superintendent Brabrand presented a revised phased- plan to return all students who have selected the in-person option starting in January, 2021. Staff worked to improve start times and end times for all levels.

Barring any changes to the plan that may be impacted by the pandemic, the following bell schedule will be in place effective January 12, 2021 for both virtual and in- person instruction.

Return to School Bell Schedule

Middle School	7:30-2:00
Secondary School	8:20-2:50
High School	8:20-2:50
Thomas Jefferson	8:40-3:45
Elementary School	9:00-3:30 or 9:45-4:15

We feel this plan is a significant improvement and less disruptive over what was presented in the original plan last summer.

The fifteen (15) minute reduction in the school day is due to the increased cleaning time required between bus runs. Additionally, as more students return to school, the number of students allowed on each bus will be reduced substantially to meet social distancing requirements. With fewer students able to ride a bus at the same time, FCPS has no choice but to adjust the times that our buses are transporting students.

We understand that changes may present a hardship to some of our families and staff. However, it is the only way we can return all our grade levels to in-person learning, while following the critical guidelines to help keep our students and staff safe.

Thank you for your understanding.

Holiday Homework Guidelines

Teachers and staff work extremely hard and spend a great deal of time to ensure that learning remains the core of our work. Our students work hard too! This includes synchronous and asynchronous hours to complete assignments and engage in school activities, including social-emotional learning, essential to a well-rounded education. As we approach the Thanksgiving and winter breaks, we will continue to uphold the expectation that we support our students and families in finding a healthy balance between school work, and family time.

Our teachers agreed not to issue homework that students must complete over the Thanksgiving, winter or spring breaks. Specifically, teachers have agreed not to assign homework or projects that are due on the two school days following each of these extended breaks.

This does not preclude teachers from assigning long-range assignments in the weeks before a break and tasking students to use their own time management skills to determine if they need to work during their holiday. Schools have agreed that these assignments should not be due immediately following the break.

Please remember the many challenges this year and remember to grant yourself the grace of having time over the holidays to spend time with family and loved ones.

- Students should not be assigned work to complete over school breaks.
- No work/major assessments should be scheduled immediately upon return from break.
- The due dates of long-term assignments should not be scheduled immediately after the holiday break.

Orange/Blue Calendar with LS Rotations

<https://westspringfieldhs.fcps.edu/sites/default/files/media/inline-files/2020-2021%20Calendar%20Days%20%284%29.pdf>

Forms

<https://westspringfieldhs.fcps.edu/announcements/virtual-spartan-sprees>

Monday Attendance Form

Students will fill out this google survey **every** Monday, except holidays.

- <https://forms.gle/JVnQp1paqZSSpfz87>
- Students will need to be logged into their FCPS Google Account to access it.
- Going forward reminders to fill out the Monday form will go out to students from Schoology.

Students who have been assigned or request remediation will have been contacted by a teacher before Monday. If there are any questions about the Monday Attendance Form, please reach out to Elizabeth Wahl (ewahl@fcps.edu).

School Counseling News

Ms. Hunter will be on maternity leave from November 9, 2020 until January 2021. For questions or concerns regarding students in her caseload (last name SAR – Tom) please email Ms. Braxton, Director of Student Services at Mybraxton@fcps.edu or your student's grade level administrator. *Seniors (Class of 2021)* - Please contact Ms. Kurth (LAKurth@fcps.edu) regarding your college application, letter of recommendation and transcript questions, as she will be able to assist.

Student Services Programming

Below you will find the program recordings that have occurred this this with the Student Services Department. At any time, if you have questions, please reach out to your student's counselor, or the Director of Student Services directly. Please know that this information can also be found on West Springfield's website.

[Meet Your School Counselors 2020 - 2021](#)

[October Video Programming Announcement](#)

[November Video Programming Announcement](#)

December Video Programming Announcement (COMING SOON)

Grade Level Programming

Class of 2021 (Seniors):

- Senior Student & Parent Night September 2020
 - [Session 1: College Panel - UMD Eastern Shore, VCU, Univ of Kentucky, JMU, Hampton Univ,](#)
 - [Session 2: College Panel - UMD Eastern Shore, VCU, Univ of Kentucky, Hampton Univ,](#)
- [Career Exploration Workshop Sept 2020](#) & [Career/Major Exploration Resource Sheet](#)
- [Transcript Workshop Oct 2020](#)

Class of 2022 (Juniors):

- [11th Grade Parent Coffee \(Nov. 2, 2020\)](#)

Class of 2023

- 10th Grade Parent Coffee (COMING SOON – JAN 2021)

Class of 2024

- [WSHS Student Services Freshman Welcome Video](#)
- [9th Grade Parent Coffee \(Nov. 2, 2020\)](#)

School-Wide Programming

[Welcome Video for New Transfer Students \(10 – 12th grade\)](#)

Counselor Café

- September 30th, 2020
 - 11th & 12th Grade: [How To's: College, Career and Volunteer Opportunities through Naviance Student](#)
- October 19th, 2020
 - 9th – 11th Grade: [Graduation Requirements](#)
 - 12th Grade: [Graduation Requirements & College Application Process](#)
- December 2020 (COMING SOON)

Annual Career Fair (COMING SOON – NOV 2020)

Wellness Week (COMING SOON)

New FCPSOn at home policy

- Restrictions have been removed that deny access to the Windows Control Panel
- All “roadblocks” for **printing** at home have been removed.
- There still may have issues where one device gets pre-loaded driver that works and another doesn't
- **What is needed to update computers to new policy**
 - Bring the laptop to any FCPS school
 - reboot 3 times,
 - Log in.
 - Search for **cmd**. It should find **Command Prompt** app. Open it. A black window should appear.
 - Type in **gpupdate** then press Enter. When it is completed, you can shut down and go home.

Google Resource App in Schoology

The [Google Resource App](#) will be available for students by **8 am on October 5, 2020**. Students will have the ability to connect their Google Drives within Schoology. This will give students the ability to select Google Drive items to submit as part of assignments.

When students click **Submit Assignment**, they have three options in the new window:

- **Upload** - paste in a link to an existing file or create an audio/video recording
- **Create** - enter text directly into the text box
- **Resources** - select a Google Drive item directly from their Google Drives to import, or create new Google Drive items from within Schoology

Reminder: Students must [approve and connect](#) their FCPS Google Drive (fcpschools.net) with Schoology.

Restart, restart, restart

- Most all software issues can be fixed by Restarting. This is not necessarily the same as Shutting Down and Starting up. The first trouble-shooting step for any software issue should be to restart. Press CTRL+ALT+DEL. Select the power button icon from the very bottom right and choose **Restart**.
- If your computer is generally running slow, you should clean up Chrome and perform a command line restart.
 - **Clean up Chrome (should be your default browser)**
 - From the ... menu in Chrome, select **Settings**
 - Select **Advanced**
 - Select **Reset and clean up**
 - Select **Restore settings to their original defaults**.
 - Restart Chrome
 - **Command line restart**
 - Search for **cmd**. It should find **Command Prompt** app. Open it. A black window should appear.
 - Type in the following then press Enter. **Shutdown -r -f -t 5** (there are spaces between commands)
 - Your computer should restart. Please note if it appears to take longer than normal to restart. Longer is good.
 - Repeat if you still have issues. Sometimes this is required to return to a normal working state.

Welcome back Spartan Student Athletes! Our goal is to continue providing athletic opportunities for our students in the safest possible manner. To that end, we ask for your help in a couple of critically important areas:

Please, do not send your child to practice or workouts if:

- *He/she complains of not feeling well and/or has any of the following:*
 - *Feeling feverish and/or having chills (if documented temperature/fever of 100.4F or greater)*
 - *A new cough not due to another health condition*
 - *Fatigue (more tired than usual)*
 - *Nasal congestion or runny nose*
 - *Headache*
 - *A new sore throat not due to another health condition*
 - *New chills not due to another health condition*
 - *New muscle pain not due to another health condition or that may have been caused by a specific activity such as physical exercise*
 - *New loss of taste or smell, new onset of poor appetite or poor feeding Abdominal pain, diarrhea, nausea, vomiting*
- *He/she has been exposed to an individual who has tested positive for COVID-19 or displays signs or symptoms associated with COVID-19*
- *He/she has been tested for COVID-19 and is awaiting results OR another family residing in the same house has been tested and is awaiting results*

The Virginia Department of Health (VDH) recently recommended the following: [*“During times of substantial COVID-19 activity VDH strongly advises athletes to wear masks at all times during group training, competition, and on the sidelines.”*](#)

Beginning Friday, December 11, students participating in FCPS athletic programs, to include in-season practices and competitions as well as out-of-season workouts, are required to wear masks during all aspects of athletic participation in all sports with the exception of wrestling, gymnastics and swim and dive.

With everyone's help, we look forward to a successful season.

Dream Big, Work Hard, Be Proud
SPARTAN STRONG!



Senior Spotlight!

Information for the Class of 2021

Senior Pictures Information:

We are pleased to inform you that we have established dates and times for our senior portraits. We will once again be working with Lifetouch Photography. We will be mailing out appointment cards with information or if you want to book an appointment now you can log into the following link.

- Log onto [PrestigePortraits.com](https://www.prestigeportraits.com)
- Search by city/state (Springfield, VA)
- West Springfield should then come up, enter your name and you will be able to set-up an appointment. If a student cannot find their name on the site the student needs to contact Customer Service Dept - 800-445-1189 or email Answers@Lifetouch.com to make an appointment.

Our remaining picture dates are as follows:

- Dec. 18: 9:30am-5pm
- Dec. 19 (**Sat**): 10:00am-4pm

There are multiple options for families to choose from at the website portal. For those who do not want to purchase a packet but would like to have their picture taken for the yearbook you need select the Basic session at prestigeportraits.com , but do not pay online, this will allow you to get 2 yearbook poses for yearbook use at no cost. The appointment will be scheduled and when you arrive for their scheduled appointment, notify the Lifetouch photography assistant that you would like the Yearbook only session.

Clothing Attire

At this time due to Covid protocols that we must follow we will not be able to provide traditional Tuxedo's or drapes. We ask that you arrive for your appointment with your own semi-formal outfits for your senior yearbook portraits. It is suggested that a collared shirt and tie with optional suit coat /jacket or a solid colored blouse or dress.

Photography protocols

Photographers have completed training to offer 'No-Touch' posing ensuring they will not make any physical contact with customers. They have been equipped with personal protective equipment (PPE), sanitization products to properly clean and disinfect equipment after each session. have. They must complete checklists before, during and after each session to ensure a safe and positive photography session.

All Night Grad Party Update:

More information will be sent out in the News You Choose email. Check out the website to learn more! <https://wshs-angp.square.site/>