

Dragon Tales

April 3, 2020

Hello DMS CommUnity,

It has been a busy week at DMS, and our staff have been focused and engaged in professional learning that will support the implementation of our new digital platform. They are eager to reconnect with their students and get back to the business of teaching and learning. They have also been working very hard to become proficient and fluent in Google Meets and other online learning tools. As we move closer toward the implementation of Phase III in the Continuity of Learning plan, teachers will be uploading optional assignments for students to their Canvas pages. In the meantime, continue to check the [HCPSS Continuity of Learning](#) page for resources posted to the [HCPSS](#) website. These resources are organized by grade and course.

3rd Quarter Grades:

This week, Dr. Martirano announced the 3rd Quarter marking period will be closing on April 24. Teachers will base 3rd Quarter grades, for all students, on work assigned on and prior to March 13, 2020; the last day schools were in session. The majority of the 3rd Quarter had already taken place when schools were closed.

- Teachers will continue to grade work assigned prior to March 13 that has been received, and will continue grading through April 24, allowing students to submit 3rd Quarter work that was due by March 13 but had not yet been submitted. This will allow students to improve their grades, if desired.
- IEP and 504 plans will be honored in the completion of all work.

Remember, the decisions about 3rd Quarter grading are based on three primary goals, which are consistent with the goals for the overall HCPSS instructional program:

- Providing meaningful feedback on student achievement for students, parents, teachers and other stakeholders
- Ensuring equity, by providing the access, opportunities and support needed to help students reach their full potential and removing barriers to success
- Ensuring fairness in assessing student work for the quarter

Please see complete [Third Quarter Grade](#) guidelines on the HCPSS website.

Weekly Updates and Information:

The following updates provide additional information for families and staff.

Free Wifi through Comcast Xfinity

In addition to providing low cost internet access to eligible families through its [Comcast Internet Essentials](#) program, Comcast has opened free access to its Xfinity WiFi network, making hotspots across the country available to anyone, including non-subscribers, at no cost. Search by zip code or city to find a hotspot near you at wifi.xfinity.com.

Meal Distribution During Spring Break

HCPSS is providing [free Grab-N-Go meals](#) through April 24 to anyone age 18 and under and/or any HCPSS student, regardless of age, at locations countywide. Meals are available from 11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m., weekdays. Participants will be given a snack, lunch and dinner for that day, as well as a breakfast for the following day, and are encouraged to bring a bag to carry home meals each day. Friday distributions at school locations also will include weekend meals. Note: There will be no meal service April 10 or 13; meals for those days will be distributed Thursday, April 9, with instructions for storage and preparation.

Student Device Distribution Update:

Distribution of Chromebooks for use in distance learning began today at three sites for high school students. Distribution to high school families will continue over the next four weekdays and will be followed by distribution to middle and elementary families. To date, more than 50,000 families have completed the Student Technology Survey and have requested more than 9,000 devices for student use. We will continue distributing devices to families that need them using our current stock as well as new devices that have arrived earlier than expected. We will continue as long as a need exists, adding additional deployment dates if necessary. As a reminder, families who requested a device, either through the survey or directly from a staff member or interpreter, will be emailed directly with details on where and when devices can be picked up.

Check Your Canvas Notifications

Parents/guardians should check your Canvas notification settings to ensure you are receiving announcements, assignments and messages from teachers. Directions on [updating your parent profile and notification settings](#) are available online. Parents/guardians unfamiliar with Canvas may find it helpful to review the features in this [Canvas Orientation](#).

As we wrap up the week, I want to thank you again for your patience, kindness and support. Continue to focus on the health and well-being of your families during this crisis. Have a wonderful weekend.

Antoinette Roberson
Principal