
From: South County HS <fcps@public.govdelivery.com>
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To:
Subject: Weekly News From South County High School

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South County High School



From The Principal

Family,

Week 4 is in the books already and the “school” is still standing. This plane is still flying and gaining lift while we continue to add needed parts to it. But as I shared with you last week, we have some of the best engineers working on this and we are doing pretty well. As I am sure you know, the reality is that this virtual teaching and learning is tough for so many. I share with the staff every day for the most part how proud I am of their efforts; and I honestly am. But I also have to share with them that I also am proud of the fact that they continue to fight through adversity every day because not every lesson goes smoothly, and not every link works flawlessly. And yet they return to the computer day in and day out to ensure that our students are being taken care of.

I also want to acknowledge our students who continue to be resilient and show their grit because getting up in this environment and performing in class can be tough. When the internet connection doesn't always work properly, they continue to try, they restart their computers and routers, and email their teachers, or even write to me (like I actually have an answer). When they are feeling alone, they reach out to our human resources, and they take the deep breath and return to class again. Please applaud your children for continuing strongly along the correct path toward success in this environment. No, in fact, hug them because again, it is not easy, and they deserve to know that you know.

I have taken the time to drop into classes to watch and listen in on lessons. I see the participation. And no, it is not ideal, but I see the creativity from the teachers and the

learning of the students. I really am proud to say that there is true learning taking place. And what is great, is that while the students aren't in the brick and mortar building, they *will be* prepared for the next steps beyond this school year.

We are continuing to prepare for the return to school for our students. As you may have heard from the Superintendent, some of our students will be returning to the building sooner than later. Those students are our lower level English Learner students, our students with Intellectual Disabilities, and our students in our upper level Automotive Technology classes (levels 2 & 3) where hands on experiences are absolutely critical in the early stages of the course. These families have already been contacted about when their children are expected to return to school, and we are excited about their impending return.

The building is being equipped with the necessary equipment to ensure student safety, staff will have their required personal protective equipment (PPE) and we are ensuring our protocols and safeguards for staff and students to follow are in place. When our students return we will be able to welcome them back into a safe and protected environment.

I, along with Mr. Garner, met with our Online Newspaper staff to get an update on their progress. I am proud to say that the Stallion Nation Network Newspaper will be up and running in the very near future. Ms. Avril Silva and Ms. Victoria Rankin are heading up this effort and are going to provide our students with a powerful voice in the South County learning community and beyond. I am very excited about this initiative and I am sure that you will be equally pleased!

If your child is involved in a course that has a class fee, those class fees will be paid through MySchoolBucks wherever possible. Those invoices to parents will go out on 10/7/20. Please be on the lookout for that correspondence. Keeping on the same page around fees, I am happy to share with you that FCPS will not be charging families the FCPS On fee of \$50.00 this year which was paid last year to cover laptop issues.

Here is some information shared from the district:

Safe Routes to School Walking Wednesdays

FCPS Safe Routes to School in collaboration with Fairfax County Park Authority's Move Your Way and Healthy Strides campaign will be promoting Walking Wednesdays during the 2020-2021 school year to encourage physical activity. Principals are encouraged to share the information below with their communities.

Walking Wednesdays is a county-wide community program designed to promote physical and mental health. FCPS Safe Routes to School in collaboration with Fairfax County Park Authority's Move Your Way and Healthy Strides campaign encourages students and parents/guardians to take time each Wednesday to walk and connect

with friends, neighbors and classmates before the school day and workday begins. Whether your walk takes you around the block, to the bus stop, or to your school, we hope you will find others out walking and can greet one another from a distance.

Walking Wednesdays will kick off on October 7, 2020, which is International Walk to School Day. Coming in November will be Ruby Bridges Walk to School Day on November 18, 2020. More information about Walking Wednesdays can be found at <https://www.fcps.edu/resources/safety-and-transportation/transportation-services/safe-routes-school-srts>.

Families, neighborhoods or schools can register their participation in International Walk to School Day on October 7, 2020 at <http://www.walkbiketoschool.org/registration/>

Here are some ideas for your neighborhood Walk to School Day 2020: <http://www.walkbiketoschool.org/20-ideas-for-walk-to-school-day-2020/>

Face Covering Exemptions

Face Coverings to Mitigate the Spread of Infectious Disease (Regulation 2109) requires face coverings for all students, staff and visitors during transport and while on school property. Any student (2 years of age and older) seeking exemption from the face covering requirement due to a medical condition must provide a written statement from their physician indicating that this is medically necessary.

To close out, I want to thank the parents who took me up on reaching out to teachers to let them know how much they appreciate them. One parent in particular sent a touching message to her child's group of teachers to share how much learning she is witnessing in his classes. I shared that message with the rest of the school staff and the reaction was so positive and impactful. Teachers who have been having a hard time being away from their students and dealing with this not being what they consider to be their best work, truly needed to hear from the parent that their efforts are working and appreciated. I won't share the name of that parent, but I do know that she will know who I am speaking of. Thank you "parent" for sending that message. You made a huge difference in our building.

Please enjoy the remainder of your weekend, take care, be safe and know we will forever be #OneStallion!

Gary

On Thursday, October 29, South County High School **eleventh graders** will have the opportunity to take the PSAT/NMSQT. FCPS will cover the cost for any eleventh grade student to take this test.

To help the school prepare for testing, families are asked to complete the form below **by Friday, October 9**. This form asks about participation in the test, the need or bus transportation, and interest in free breakfast or lunch on the day of the test. **Note: the student must access this form via their @fcpschools.net account.**

[South County HS: PSAT/NMSQT Intent to Participate Form](#)

A translated version of the form content may be found on the PSAT/NMSQT Intent webpage (<https://www.fcps.edu/node/42099>). **Due to health and safety protocols, FCPS sites cannot accept walk-ins on the day of the exam.**

General information about the PSAT/NMSQT test format is available on the College Board webpage (<https://collegereadiness.collegeboard.org/psat-nmsqt-psat-10>).

Thursday, October 29 has been designated for asynchronous learning in FCPS high schools, so students who choose to take the PSAT/NMSQT will not miss synchronous learning time with their teachers.

For students who want to practice the SAT from the comfort of their own homes, College Board has several SAT Practice tests available on their [website](#).

We will share more details about test day schedules and bus transportation in the coming weeks. FCPS health and safety protocols for PSAT/NMSQT administration are available online (<https://www.fcps.edu/node/41891>).

If you have questions about the PSAT/NMSQT administration at South County High School, please contact Chris Bird at 703-446-1643 or cwbird@fcps.edu.

Senior Photo Update

All South County High School seniors who had confirmed appointments that were canceled for 8/18 or 8/20 will have an opportunity to be photographed at the Lifetouch Virginia studio location on 10/20 or 10/21. Seniors can use the Lifetouch supplied drape, tux, and cap and gowns for these appointments **IF THEY CHOOSE TO**. Lifetouch steams items between all student uses. Students who do not feel comfortable sharing Lifetouch clothing can bring a neutral top of their choice, preferably black.

Notifications will be sent by mail in early October directing students to set and confirm an appointment time on the prestigeportraits.com website. If the August appointment was canceled and a sitting fee was paid online for that appointment, there will be no sitting fee due when scheduling for October. Please *do not* pay online when

scheduling. Our Virginia studio is located at the John G. Fox Memorial Hall, [7128 Columbia Pike, Annandale, VA 22003](#).

If you are unable to attend on either of those dates, or if you did NOT have an appointment scheduled over the summer, Lifetouch/Prestige Portraits will be having another session of senior portraits in late November/early December. More specific details and notifications for those dates will be communicated in mid-November.

Should you have further questions, please contact Lifetouch Customer Service team at 800-445-1189

From the Activities Office

Free NCAA Eligibility and Scholarship Seminar

South County Athletics has partnered with Dynamite Sports to offer a FREE virtual webinar to help student-athletes and families navigate the new NCAA recruiting and eligibility processes. The FREE webinar will be held on October 13 at 8:00pm. You must register in advance. To register, please use this link: [save your spot for Tuesday, October 13th at 8:00 pm EST](#).

You will learn the following:

- How to get Noticed.
- How to make sure your Athlete will be ACADEMICALLY Eligible to play in College as a freshman.
- How to get an Athletic Scholarship or Grant.
- How to setup Recruiting Visits .
- Why you should start as early as 8th Grade!
- Why there are more opportunities at D-III, NAIA & Junior Colleges.

Stallion Spirit Store (Kiosk) goes Virtual!

South County's Stallion Spirit Store is back and now open virtually! Items are available to order online through a Google Form with invoicing to follow after order is fulfilled. All items can be shipped directly to your home for a fee or pick up can be arranged at the school. To order items, please use this link - [Stallion Spirit Store](#).

Thank you in advance for supporting the Entrepreneurship & Marketing program as well as the Work and Transition program here at South County. The students from

these programs typically work the Spirit Kiosk at lunches to build customer service skills as well as count inventory and review financial records. These work-based learning opportunities allow students to connect classroom lessons to actual scenarios. This year, the students will still review the financial records and inventory while virtual as well as create promotions and research new merchandise options.

From the PTO

2020 White House Ornaments have arrived!

SCPTSO is continuing its tradition of selling the Annual White House Ornament to benefit the All Night Grad Party. Please consider supporting the Class of 2021 as they make the most of their rather different Senior Year with your ornament purchases. Visit <https://southcountyppto.membershiptoolkit.com> for online ordering. Inquiries can be directed to Jennifer Megan at JMegan2560@aol.com or Dawn Martinos at DAMartinosa@fcps.edu.

South County Annual Golf Tournament

SC Athletic Boosters and the PTO will be holding their Annual Golf Tournament on Monday, October 19th at the Laurel Hill Golf Club. We are in need of some parent and student volunteers. Please click on the link below to sign up. <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/60B0548AFA82DA6FE3-14th>

Junior & Senior Families

We will be hosting an All Night Grad Party Brainstorming & Informational Zoom meeting on Monday, October 5th at 7:30pm. This meeting will be open to all junior and senior parents to discuss plans moving forward for ANGP for the Class of '21. Click on the link below to join <https://zoom.us/j/93007180573?pwd=dIVJdUU5UEVRbjBCY0paKzRKSXhIUT09>.

IMPORTANT REMINDER

(Only if you haven't submitted this for your child yet.)

Digital Resources Consent Form

At South County High School, our teachers will use a variety of digital resources to support student learning and promote communication and collaboration with students and families. Some of the digital resources your child may use this year will require your consent before they can be used. You can find our school's list of the resources that require parental consent

here: <https://southcountyhs.fcps.edu/adopteddigitalresources>

Included on this page is also a [link to a form](#) where the enrolling parent or guardian will need to indicate whether or not their student is allowed to use the list of digital resources this year. This page also provides more information about how FCPS carefully reviews digital resources for approval and why we must request your consent before using certain tools. We encourage you to complete the parental consent for digital resources form as soon as possible, as your child will not be able to use the digital resources until we have received your permission. Please reach out to your child's teacher or our School Based Technology Specialist, Leslie Lewis, if you have questions or concerns about the digital resources, we've chosen to use this year.

From the Library

Curbside Pickup

Does your student need a print book for class or personal reading? South County HS Library is beginning curbside and contactless pickup of library books on Mondays 8am-4pm beginning September 28th. Please see the 24/7 Blackboard South County HS Library Course for details on how to request and pick up books. Masks must be worn when picking up books.

Virtual Librarian Support

Does your student need book recommendations, homework support, research help on assignments, or help proofreading their assignments? They can schedule a virtual meeting with one of the librarians for support. Please see the 24/7 Blackboard South County HS Library Course for details about how to schedule a time.

Please contact Emily Strong erstrong@fcps.edu or Lisa Muir lkmuir@fcps.edu with any questions.

PTSO

PTSO Website

Come check out our website <https://southcountypsto.membershiptoolkit.com/home> . This is where you can join the PTSO, sign up to help volunteer, order Walk of Fame bricks, White house Christmas ornaments and class magnets. Looking for other ways to stay connected, download our membership toolkit app in the apple store or google play store.

14th Annual South County Golf Classic

The PSTO and South County Athletic Booster Club would like to invite you to register our 14 annual South County Golf Classic fundraiser. This year's tournament will be held on October 19 @ Laurel Hill Golf Club. The practice facility will be open starting at 11:30am with a shotgun start promptly at 1:00pm. Your registration will include a golf cart, lunch, dinner and refreshments on the course. Please use this link to registration - <https://birdease.com/scgolfclassic>

Lorton Community Action Center

In Need of Help During These Difficult Times?

Do you know of someone in the area that may need help? Fairfax County has non-profits throughout the county that work in specific zip codes to help folks in need. In South County's area, the Lorton Community Action Center (LCAC) provides food, emergency financial assistance and educational programs to help families and seniors in the community. You can learn more here: <https://lortonaction.org/need-help/>

[8501 Silverbrook Road, Lorton, VA 22079](https://www.lortonaction.org/) | Main Office: 703.446.1600
Attendance: 703.446.1625 | [Web](#) | [Twitter](#)

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