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**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,

First week of students back in the building... accomplished. And it wasn't all that bad. Kind of tasted like chicken. Actually, it was fantastic to have the buzz of student voices back in the halls and to see how many of them enjoyed being around one another. The teachers, the students, and the rest of the staff truly enjoyed being back together; even if in a limited capacity. And this week, we welcome the 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> graders. I am very excited about having the remainder of the students in and I am sure they will have a great returning experience as well.

With Spring Break coming up, I wanted to share the recommendations the Virginia Health Department is making. These are purely recommendations. Non-essential travel is discouraged. Quarantining is not required and testing is not required for those who travel. Families may opt to keep their students at home for 14 days after they return. VDH recommends to get tested both before and after travel and reduce non-essential activities for 7 days after traveling, but again this is just a recommendation.

South County will be hosting an in-person summer school this year. There will not be a hybrid option offered for students for credit recovery. Here are the details:

25 Courses will be offered: English 9-12, English 9-11 for EIs, Bio, Chem, Geosystems, Alg1, Geometry, Alg2, AFDA, WH/Geo 1-2, VA/US Hist., VA/US Govt., ESOL Lit., ESOL Numeracy, Reading WorkKeys, Writing WorkKeys, SOL Remediation classes

Unlike previous years and due to an anticipated need, there will be **2 Sessions** this summer: June 28- July 16 and July 20 – August 6. Each session will be 70 hours total, 14 days at 5 hours per day.

The Online Campus will offer Summer school for students who wish to progress and gain new credit. The cost for a class will be \$375. Dates and other details will be posted in the near future. Online Campus and Virtual Virginia will be options for students to use for gaining additional credits.

We are trying to ensure we get out ahead of this graduation thing and push this survey for students to fill out their cap and gown info for graduation please? 😊  
<https://forms.gle/bW29Q33hudAiTvXu5> This link has been shared with your students. Unfortunately, this form can only be accessed by those who have FCPS email accounts, so you will have to forward this to your child in order for it to be completed.

In the town hall meeting we held recently, the question was posed about what we were doing to ensure that there was a level playing field for our in-person students as it relates to assessments. At the time I shared that I really did not have an answer at the time and that I would be working to come up with a response for you all. I was able to meet with our Instructional Council of teacher leaders and this is what we came up with:

*I wish I could say that we have fully ironed this out, but unfortunately I cannot. What did come out of the conversation with our Instructional Council was that we found that there are a few departments who have already decided to move forward with making assessments in both learning environments open notes and having students be able to have some of the same resources that our virtual learning students have available to them. Other departments have emphasized that learning needs the absorption and then application of the content that has been studied in the classroom, and an open notes assessment policy would not produce the desired results in the students.*

*Our teachers are struggling with the thought of watching students take assessments and pulling out their electronic devices to look up answers so the in-person students have the same access as presumably those at home. I have to side with them in this thinking. It does actually fly in the face of the work they have done instructionally all the way up to the assessment. Teachers want to know that students have actually learned the content they have worked to deliver to them. I can say that I know our teachers are continually adapting their assessment methods and are doing so with the end goal of creating a fair environment as best they can.*

*The other side of this concern that I personally struggle with the comparisons of the assessment outcomes from student to student. There are natural consequences for not actually learning the content. Students must realize this as they make decisions about how they will approach their learning and each assessment. make decisions*

*about how they will approach their learning and each assessment. Our focus pre-COVID has been and should continue to be on the actual learning process rather than where does my child place in this fictitious ranking system. I understand that students may be competing for spots in various post-secondary institutions, but there should be more to this "learning thing" than that; at least I hope.*

*I did share with the group that we do need to change the way that we are accessing students so that we aren't just asking students to regurgitate information, but rather we are seeing the demonstration of application of what has been taught which would definitely make the playing field much more level, and would also allow students to see themselves in the work they are doing. And I hope that we will use this "opportunity" as a springboard to change how we are assessing our students schoolwide. Some of our departments are well on the way with this as their assessments already require students to demonstrate a depth of thinking. But to require this change in practice for all of our teachers at this time of the year with all the stress they are already under would be baiting teachers to walk out of the door and away from the jobs they love.*

*So I say all this to say that we did have the discussion, and students will likely see some changes in some of their classes as it relates to assessments. But unfortunately, it will not be a wholesale change at this point in time.*

*I hope that this response is suitable for each of you. We will continue to do the work to serve every student as best we can.*

Lastly, since Monday the 8<sup>th</sup> is a student holiday and a professional development day for staff, there will be no attendance taken. Staff will be taking part in professional development in the area of Cultural Proficiency: Amplifying and Affirming The Voice Of The Voice Of Those Who Are Marginalized.

I hope that each of you will have a safe, warm and relaxing rest of the weekend. Thank you for your continued support! #OneStallion

Gary

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## **Important message from the SCHS Health Room:**

If you have a student returning to in-person learning who needs a prescription or emergency medication at the school, please contact the clinic at your earliest convenience. Your student will need an authorization form filled out by their doctor. Please email the School Health Aide, April Bannister at [adbannister@fcps.edu](mailto:adbannister@fcps.edu) to set up a time to bring your student's medication and authorization form to the Health

Room. If your student self-carries an inhaler, epi-pen, or any other medication, they are still required to have an authorization form in the Health Room. The clinic will need to see the medication with unexpired pharmacy label when self-carry authorizations are dropped off. You can find links to the health authorization forms on the clinic page:

<https://southcountyhs.fcps.edu/resources/clinic>

We look forward to seeing your student in the building soon!

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## Testing Corner

### Parents of 11<sup>th</sup> Grade Students

Monday March 15 will be the second day of the Writing SOL exam. Students who only did the Short Paper on March 1 and students who were unable to test due to technical difficulties need to conform their intent to test using [the link here](#). Please talk with your 11<sup>th</sup> grade student about the Writing SOL to see if they have registered their testing dates with the Testing Office.

Parents – also discuss the following message from the SCHS Tech Team regarding their FCPS-issued laptop.

FCPS laptops need to be restarted each day in order to install updates and make themselves available to download more updates. This is especially true if you have been using a personal device at home and have not been using your school laptop often. Despite our efforts, many students shutdown their laptops and re-boot the next day, which does not trigger the update install. If you are preparing to come back for in-person classes or for taking an SOL test at school please start leaving the laptop on during the day and restarting at the end of class.

### All Tenth Grade Students and Parents

On Monday, April 19, South County High School tenth graders will have the opportunity to take the PSAT 10. FCPS will cover the cost for any tenth grade student to take this test.

To help the school prepare for testing, families are asked to complete the form below **by Friday, March 19**. 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.

South County High School: PSAT 10 Intent to Participate  
Form (<https://forms.gle/zt35XLfQbJWCgYgn8>)

A translated version of the form content may be found on the PSAT 10 Intent webpage (<https://www.fcps.edu/node/42692>). This form works best when accessed from your student's @fcpschools.net account. ***Due to health and safety protocols, FCPS sites cannot accept walk-ins on the day of the exam.***

General information about the PSAT 10 test format is available on the College Board webpage (<https://collegereadiness.collegeboard.org/psat-nmsqt-psat-10>). Monday, April 19 has been designated for independent learning in FCPS high schools, so students who choose to take the PSAT 10 will not miss synchronous instruction or intervention with their teachers.

Note: the PSAT 10 cannot be used for as a qualifying test for the National Merit Scholarship Program. The PSAT/NMSQT must be taken in 11<sup>th</sup> grade for that qualifying score. The PSAT 10 is also not a requirement for graduation and will have no effect on your student's grades or cumulative GPA.

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 10 administration are available online (<https://www.fcps.edu/node/41891>).

If you have questions about the PSAT 10 administration at South County High School, please contact us at Chris Bird, School Test Coordinator, at [cwbird@fcps.edu](mailto:cwbird@fcps.edu) or at 703-446-1643

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## The College Search

South County Student Services is partnering with Lake Braddock Student Services to host a panel of 5 College Admission Representatives for juniors and their parents. We hope you will be able to join us virtually on March 16, 2021 at 7:00PM. [Please use this Google form to register](#). A participation link will be sent out the morning of the event to those registered. If you are unable to attend, the event will be recorded. The topics to be covered are as follows:

- Junior Year and the College Search
- Community College Options
- How Do Colleges Make Admission Decisions?
- Financial Aid/Scholarships & Private Schools
- Managing the Process and Student Decisions

# Yearbook News

## **Ordering Yearbooks and Senior Ads**

Yearbooks and Senior Ads are on sale at [www.yearbookforever.com](http://www.yearbookforever.com) . The only way to guarantee you have a book is to pre-order it online. We may have extra books on sale at the end of the year, but can not guarantee it. Last year we sold out, so if you want a book, buy now.

Senior ads will continue to be sold until space runs out. We currently have filled about half the senior ad space. They can also be bought at [www.yearbookforever.com](http://www.yearbookforever.com)

## **Sharing Pictures**

The yearbook is relying heavily on pictures from the community this year, and we really want to represent as many people as possible. If you would like to share photos with the book (especially if you haven't done so yet), you can email them to Ms. Delinski directly at [jldelinski@fcps.edu](mailto:jldelinski@fcps.edu). Or you can upload them at [www.yearbookforever.com](http://www.yearbookforever.com), go to South County's page, and click "Community Upload." Our access code is **SOCO2021**

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## From the PTSO

### **Parent Coffee with Principal Morris on 3/12 at 9am**

Join us for an informal discussion with Mr. Morris, followed by a Q&A Session. Click [here](#) to join Zoom meeting.

### **Academic Awards Pickup- 3/22 (12pm-4pm)**

We will be having a 2<sup>nd</sup> pickup for Academic Letters/Pins on March 22<sup>nd</sup> from 12pm-4pm at the entrance to Door 15. This door is to the right of the Main Office Doors. You can head straight to Door 15, no need to go to Main Office.

### **All Night Graduation Party CHIPOTLE Fundraiser**

**We need your help! Let's raise money for the Class of 2021 ANGP.**

Eat at Chipotle at Lorton Market St. on Wednesday, 3/24 5pm-9pm. Click [here](#) for the flyer to show cashier.

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## SC Girls Lacrosse

SC Girls Lacrosse is selling hand-picked Indian River fruit through online sales. Please support our fundraising effort by offering a healthy and delicious product to family, friends and co-workers. Orders ship directly to any address in the continental U.S.!

Click the link below to order fresh fruit from **Monday, March 1st through Sunday, March 14th.**

<https://shop.floridaindianrivergroves.com/ecommerce/1023358>

WE APPRECIATE YOUR SUPPORT!

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## South County Athletic Booster Club

Jersey Mike's Subs located at the Shoppes of Lorton Valley on Ox Road, are offering a special just for our South County community!

March 1<sup>st</sup> -10<sup>th</sup>, mention South County and receive \$2.00 off

your order or buy 2 Giants and get a third for \$1.99 or buy a Regular

Sub and get the 2<sup>nd</sup> for \$3.99! Offers cannot be combined.

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## New Merchandise Available at the Stallion Spirit Store Website!

South County's Stallion Spirit Store is open virtually with NEW merchandise available on our NEW [website](#)! You'll find the Order Form with directions on how to return; once the order is filled, payment can be made on MySchoolBucks and picked up at the school.

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.

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8501 Silverbrook Road, Lorton, VA 22079 | Main Office: 703.446.1600  
Attendance: 703.446.1625 | [Web](#) | [Twitter](#)

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