

*** Annotations based on the live virtual session have been added to this slide deck in red text. ***

Questions from the session are summarized and presented at the end of the presentation.

Principal's Coffee

— May 13, 2020 —

Current/Upcoming Information

- **Student item pick up** -This Friday, teachers will begin packing students' items in labeled brown paper bags so that families may sign up for a time to pick up items at Stenwood (curbside, no contact). Pick up will likely be scheduled for early June, so continue to read the Hive Happenings and eNotify for additional updates. We will simultaneously be doing medication return. At this time, your family will be able to drop off library books, rented instruments (6th graders ONLY), and any other items that are the property of Stenwood.
- **Honoring our 6th graders** -We love our 6th graders! The 6th grade Parent Committee has begun their planning for celebrating the students, and we met with our 6th grade teachers on May 14th to plan our virtual celebration of their accomplishments. We will be in touch with 6th grade students and families when those plans are finalized.
- **Class placement input** -Only a few days remain to provide input on your child's class placement. This is not mandatory, but a great opportunity to share which peers work well (or don't work well) with your child and teacher characteristics that your child needs. You can find the link in Hive Happenings. Deadline is Monday, May 18th.
- **Registration** -Sonja Hunt (snhunt@fcps.edu) continues to register new students in our community! Please let her know if a new family with school-aged children moves in near you.
- **Bookworm Book Fair** - Our Book Fair has launched now through May 27th! Check out the Hive Happenings for more information, including a recommended book list by grade level.

FCPS Level Questions

***** Many questions we received via our survey are “outside our sandbox”, meaning decisions made at the School Board/central office level that are beyond our control. We do continue to share input and feedback we receive.**

- **Return to School Updates** - Check out the first few minutes of [this video](#) from the school board to learn more about the three scenarios that are currently on the table. It was announced that the school board will vote in June.
 - Different scenarios
 - Options for families
 - Focus on health and safety
- **Catching students up** - FCPS curriculum leaders will lead our teachers in diagnosing and remediating any deficits.
- **School year calendar** - Dr. Brabrand said he is not proposing any changes to the 2020-21 school calendar.
- **Hours of Instruction** - These guidelines are set by FCPS and can found here in the [distance learning plan](#).
- **Laptop distribution for the fall** - *****UPDATE SINCE VIRTUAL COFFEE***:** Any child returning to Stenwood in the fall does not need to return their laptop. We will be allowed to distribute K-2 laptops within the next few weeks, after coordinating with neighboring schools to help support their technology needs.
- **Technology issues with distance learning** - While FCPS' virtual learning platforms certainly had a shaky start, we are thankful for so many of you who were right there with us in working through the challenges.
- **Technology security issues** - We are pleased to have a safe and stable platform for our teachers and students using Blackboard Collaborate Ultra. BBCU keeps sessions private while providing controls to teachers for tool deactivation.

Stenwood Level Questions

*****This was the only question we received that reflects a school-based response or decision.**

- **Helping teachers virtually** - Because of privacy and confidentiality in the classroom, there are few tasks we can delegate to outside volunteers for assistance, but we appreciate the offer! We have been amazed at the ways our staff members have rallied to support one another, stretching way beyond their usual responsibilities. The most helpful thing our parent community can do is to continue to support our teachers with your kindness and patience. They are working harder than ever and miss their students.

Parent Support

*****Please also feel free to reach directly out to Erica Riley, esriley@fcps.edu or Meredith Mitchell, mamitchell@fcps.edu if that is easier and we can point you in the right direction.**

- Anoma Hapangma, School Counselor ashapangma@fcps.edu
 - Emotional wellness
 - Positive behavior support
 - Routines
 - Peer relationships
- Jill McNeil, School Psychologist jecorymcneil@fcps.edu
 - Mental Health
- Lorrie Appleton, School Social Worker lrappleton@fcps.edu
 - Community Resources - food, financial assistance, services
- Maria Meldrum, ESOL Teacher mbmeldrum@fcps.edu
 - Language services - translations, interpreters
- Jackie Krum, Technology Specialist jekrum@fcps.edu
 - Laptop issues, BBCU/Google Classroom troubleshooting
- Parent Resource Center - <https://www.fcps.edu/resources/family-engagement/parent-resource-center>
 - Webinars
 - Consultations

Questions?

Questions asked during the Principal's Coffee are summarized on the subsequent slides. If at any point you don't have the answer you are looking for, please email us so that we may call you to provide you with assistance.

Erica Riley, Principal

esriley@fcps.edu

Meredith Mitchell, Assistant Principal

mamitchell@fcps.edu

Question Summary

- Can students keep laptops over summer? ***UPDATED SINCE VIRTUAL COFFEE***... Yes! As long as they are returning to Stenwood in the fall.
- Will we be using the same learning platforms next year? TBD- this will be an FCPS level decision and dependent on the return to school scenario that is selected by the school board.
- How will relationship building occur in fall? Our teachers will work to make those opportunities happen should we be in a virtual learning scenario. Many of our Responsive Classroom techniques can transfer to an online setting, although we all agree that is not the ideal environment for forming relationships. In the meantime, Office Hours are a wonderful chance for you and your child to more personally connect with teachers. Our teachers relish the moments when students drop in for a visit!
- How does the FCPS budget impact our school? The state of VA amended the funding for the FCPS budget, resulting in a \$67 million shortfall. The school board reconvened and compensated for the loss by freezing staff member salaries (eliminating step increases and COLA adjustments for next year). Additionally, we are prohibited from all non essential spending at the school level, and are only able to carryover 10% of our budget into the next fiscal year (normally we are able to carryover up to 25%)

Question Summary

- Are there discussions about changing community use policies at schools for next year? This has not been announced, but is very likely considering the cancellation of summer programs. FCPS has been working closely with the Health Department and following all recommendations for staff coming in the building. At this time all staff entering the building fill out a questionnaire everytime they come in the building regarding their health.
- When do you start making next year's teachers/classes? The process has begun with the collection of your family's class placement input. In the coming weeks, we will be meeting with grade level teachers, our ESOL teacher, our AART teacher, our counselor, and our Reading Specialists to assemble groupings for next school year.
- One of my children has had speech classes, and while we are filling the gap with materials provided by the teacher, would it be possible to add occasional video class with the teacher? Speech services are licensed and staff differently and must adhere to a different set of guidelines regarding the use of online platforms.

Question Summary

- Do you think curriculum will change to address students' needs? The FCPS leadership has addressed that the curriculum will continue to change. Right now, our teachers have been directed to focus on essential (high impact) standards instead of focusing on the minutia of our curriculum (it was determined that the full FCPS curriculum would actually take 26 years to instruct and assess!). If you know your child is struggling in an area of the curriculum, please utilize the teacher's office hours for additional support.
- Can we get a recommended "summer" reading list for the Bookworm Book Fair? Our librarian and reading specialist have curated a list that is shared in this week's Hive Happenings- great idea!
- What should we expect from the virtual kindergarten assessment? The assessment will take place online in a BBCU session (similar to the online classroom). Parents may stay in the room, but please do not provide your child any assistance. This is a great opportunity for the Kindergarten teachers to understand your child and assess where to begin instruction to maximize your child's development. We know that some students might be a little more shy with this platform, that will be taken into consideration.
- Will activities such as Patrols and SCA continue? This week's Hive Happenings contains informational videos, participation criteria, and application forms for all our special clubs, crews, and service activities. Please read this information carefully and make a decision with your child about whether they'd like to apply for participation. This information will be shared every day during teachers' live sessions to ensure students are aware of the opportunities.

Question Summary

- How do we get our kids connected to teachers who they don't have the class links for (i.e. mentors) Please email us or Mrs. Hapangama (who coordinates our mentor program) if you or your child need contact information for a Stenwood staff member.
- Distance learning is hard at home without the routines of school. Will there be a chance to go over what students are learning now when they go back to school? Absolutely. Our teachers are masters of meeting children where they are at and catering to student needs. FCPS and our school team is prepared for the inevitable variance in learning progression that this period of time will incur.
- Will SACC be cut? SACC is run through the Fairfax County government and will be subject to their guidelines and rules.