

## Remote Learning used to provide Continuity of Learning for Fulton County Schools students

Although schools are closed, students will continue instruction from home through “Remote Learning,” the school district’s strategy for learning continuity. This plan encompasses both short- and long-term closures and includes online/digital learning elements as well as a component for those without internet access.

During the closure, instructional materials will be provided to parents in elementary schools, whereas middle and high school students will be given direct access to their materials. Whether online or printed, classwork will be assigned in one-week increments.

### **Digital Learning**

ClassLink (formerly called LaunchPad) is the online platform that students will use to access their instructional materials and complete their work while away from school. Middle and high school students, as well as elementary students in third through fifth grades, are familiar with using this platform.

ClassLink allows students to sign on once using their FCS username and password to access everything they need for classes. The platform is loaded on all school-issued student devices and can be accessed by clicking its icon. It also can be found at <https://launchpad.classlink.com/fcs>.

Teachers are also being given flexibility to use Microsoft Teams to receive completed assignments or administer class assessments. These are tools already in use at schools. Students also can take a picture of their work and email it to their teachers. In some special situations, such as a high school class, teachers might employ videoconferencing for a lecture or classroom discussion. Students enrolled in Fulton Virtual School will proceed with regular online operations and should remain in contact with their teachers.

### **Non-Digital Learning**

A non-digital component also is available for students who either do not have home internet, their access is intermittent, or their classes do not have online materials, such as preK-2<sup>nd</sup> grade students or special education classes. Curriculum materials are instead being shared through printed packets that students can complete at home and turn in once they return to school. High school students will receive directions for how to complete activities “offline,” which means using their school-issued device without connecting to the internet.

**Questions and Technical Help Hotline**

Beginning Monday, March 16, 2020, a Remote Learning Hotline (**470-254-2300**) will be live to answer technical assistance questions, such as resetting a password or finding a student ID number. The hotline is open 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. during the regular school week, Monday through Friday. Frequently asked questions are posted to the Remote Learning website: [www.fultonschools.org/RemoteLearning](http://www.fultonschools.org/RemoteLearning).

Teachers are working regular school hours from their homes and will be responsive to students' questions sent by email. Staff email information is posted on every school's website. Students who do not have access to email should call the Remote Learning Hotline at 470-254-2300.

**Stay Safe through Social Distancing**

Although school closures might seem like a good time to meet up with friends and study together, Fulton County Schools urges students to do their coursework alone and not to use community buildings. The purpose of closing an entire school system is to limit the spread of illness through social distancing, which means avoiding large groups of people and keeping safe distances from others.

**Share your stories with us**

While this is an extraordinary situation for our school system and our families, there is something positive to take away from it. Remote Learning is an opportunity for students to learn differently and apply themselves more creatively. Please share any pictures or stories with us through [communications@fultonschools.org](mailto:communications@fultonschools.org). We may share these through our social media channels to show what our students and teachers are doing.

Thank you for your cooperation as we employ our Remote Learning strategy. Nothing replaces the rigor and quality of one-to-one, classroom instruction with a teacher, but in these extraordinary times, Remote Learning is a bridge to keep learning going while we await our return to a physical school environment.