



# George Washington Elementary School

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Wednesday, August 12, 2020

Greetings Parents/Guardians!

I want to welcome you to the new school year! Our Washington Tiger staff is excited to meet our students and we are working very hard to prepare for the new school year. I would like to thank you for your patience and understanding as we navigate all the resources and suggestions or best practices for our school community. **We will begin the year in a Distance Learning Model (online only).** I know this school year will be different, however, We Believe that together we can make this school year a success. *Starting tomorrow, Thursday, August 13, you can log in to your parent portal and see the name of your child's teacher for this school year.*

## TK, Kinder, 1st, and 2nd grade

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### Parent/Guardian and Student Meetings with their Teacher:

To meet the unique needs of our youngest students, TK, Kinder, 1st, and 2nd grade, parents/guardians and students will meet individually with their teacher (15-20 minutes) in the presence of one (1) parent/guardian/caregiver, between Monday, August 17 and Friday, August 21. Teachers and staff are currently calling parents to schedule appointments.

The purpose of the meeting is to provide students with a Chromebook and teach students how to use instructional technology, distribute textbooks, make a positive personal connection, and support parent concerns.

During the meeting, parents/guardians will receive a box with supplies, materials, textbooks, and the Chromebook (laptop computer) they need to start distance learning. The boxes will be heavy, so students will need help! Parents/guardians and students will learn how to log onto the internet with your child's Chromebook. It is very important that you take this opportunity to make sure you understand how to connect your child's Chromebook to the internet. If you do not have internet access and are not currently approved for a HotSpot, you may call the Call Center Help Line at 416-5879.

All parents with a meeting time will need to check in at the front gate of the school, by the cafeteria. We will take your temperature and have you provide answers to our COVID Wellness Survey. We ask that you show up a few minutes before your appointed time so that we can get everyone through the process and to their classrooms on time. You will receive a 'pass' to show the teacher when you go to your meeting. We will have a line and appreciate that everyone leaves 6 feet of physical distance.

### Start Date for TK-2nd grade Distance Learning:

Since we are taking the time to go through some important computer basics during the meetings from August 17-21, it will take longer to distribute supplies, materials, and Chromebooks. Therefore, our **TK-2 students will begin online instruction with their teachers on Monday, Aug 24th at 9:30 AM.** I know this sounds like a long time, but since everything we are doing is going to be done via the computer, we want to make sure that all our families are able to connect to the internet. For the 19<sup>th</sup>, 20<sup>th</sup>, and 21<sup>st</sup>, teachers will be sending you a link to a list of activities that you can have your children do with your help and/or on their own. Some of them require the computer, and we realize if you haven't picked yours up yet, you may not be able to complete those tasks, but that is OK. There are plenty of other activities that can and should be done that don't require a computer.

## 3rd, 4th, 5th, and 6th grade

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### Start Date for 3rd-6th grade Distance Learning:

**Students in grades 3rd-6th will begin class online with their teachers on Wednesday, August 19th at 9:30 AM.**

Students will need to go to their Google Classroom accounts to access the Zoom or Google Meet links. Teachers will be sending home information to explain how to join their Google Classroom account. This first day will be a "Meet and Greet" with the teacher and some activities for students to complete on their own after they sign off with the teacher.

### Chromebooks for 3rd-6th grade

Students will need a Chromebook to participate in Distance Learning. Chromebooks will be available for checkout for students that do not have a device. If your child needs a Chromebook, please come to the school cafeteria between the hours of 1:00 - 5:30 PM on Thursday, August 13 and Friday, August 14. If you do not have internet access and are not currently approved for a HotSpot, you may call the Call Center Help Line at 416-5879.

### Supplies/Materials/Textbooks (3rd-6th grade)

Students in 3rd-6th grade will also receive supplies, materials, and textbooks they need to start distance learning successfully. Supplies, materials, and textbooks will be placed in a box for all students. The boxes will be heavy, so students will need help! Boxes that are labeled with teachers' names, grade, and room number will be available for curbside pick up by vehicle and in the cafeteria for parents/guardians that walk. Washington staff will have class rosters and provide your child with the box from their teacher's class.

### Supplies/Materials Pick-Up Dates and Times (3rd-6th grade)

Monday, August 17, 2020

9:00 AM - 12:00 PM

1:00 PM - 4:00 PM

Tuesday, August 18, 2020

9:00 AM - 12:00 PM

1:00 PM - 6:30 PM

### Curbside Pick-Up (come and remain in your vehicle)

*Location: sidewalk at the back gate of the school, near the bus loading zone on Austin Street.*

Each grade level will have a canopy labeled with the grade (3, 4, 5, or 6). Parents/guardians, students, and any other individuals may not exit their vehicles. The driver of the vehicle is to SLOWLY pull up to the curb on Austin street next to the canopy that corresponds to the grade level of their child and inform the staff member of their child's name. A staff member will then hand the passenger the box through the car window or place the box in the vehicle's trunk or truck bed. Only students that have completed the online data confirmation/registration process will receive a box. Please drive safely and do not stop your vehicle in the middle of the street. Pull to the curb behind the vehicle ahead of you and slowly advance in the line until you arrive at the grade level canopy for your child.

### Cafeteria Pick-Up (for walking families)

Location: the cafeteria doors in the main hallway at the front of the school.

Boxes for 3rd, 4th, 5th, and 6th grade students will be available at both doors.

### Safety Measures

*For Curbside Pick-Up:* all students and parents/guardians in their vehicles are required to wear a face mask.

*For Cafeteria Pick-Up:* to reduce the number of people on campus and protect everyone's health and safety, only ONE (1) parent/guardian/caregiver is allowed to come to the school with a student. All other relatives and siblings that are not students at Washington should stay home.

## **A Typical Week for All Students (TK-6th grade)**

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The typical week for everyone has students and teachers meeting online on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday. Wednesday, teachers will be in meetings, attending professional development, and preparing for their lessons. Wednesday is a day that students will have assignments to complete, but will be working on their own. It is important that students follow the daily schedule every day. Routines are important and routines help a child to be successful and learn!

For all grade levels, you will see that we have defined Instructional Blocks of time for learning and for breaks...just like we have in school. Multiple things will be happening during the Instructional Block times. Teachers will be online with students teaching lessons, students will be working independently, students will be viewing information at various online locations, students will be working on various online programs, reading independently, and more. It is important that you and your child understand that we expect them to be participating like they were at school, even though they are 'at home'. The Instructional Day Schedules are on our school website, Class Dojo, and Facebook page.

Students will be getting assignments via Google Classroom. Your child will need to complete these assignments and turn them in. Don't worry if you don't know how to submit an assignment... teachers will teach their students how to do this. Students will be graded on their work. If students don't show up to their scheduled classroom meetings, don't participate, or don't complete assignments, we will be calling to find out why. We realize there can be many reasons...and we will work together to overcome any obstacles that are in the way.

## **Tigers will Succeed!**

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We Believe and stand ready to continue to respond to the needs of our students. I would like to thank all our staff who are working tirelessly to help our students remain connected to the school community. We know the adults on school campuses are an important part of each student's life and will go above and beyond to create and maintain positive relationships. As we prepare to start school, we want to support our students, educators, and family members in their circumstances and changing health and safety conditions. We Believe that every student and staff member deserves a positive educational experience where they feel safe, secure and a sense of belonging. We hope that this is true on the first day of school and the last.

This school year, Tigers will be Resilient, Tigers will Stay the Course, and Tigers will do everything with enthusiasm, with heart, and with joy, "Con ganas!" Go Tigers!

Adalberto Hernandez, Principal