

Dear Parents,

Throughout the remaining shelter in place time period and the rest of the planned school year, teachers will be offering instruction and instructional materials to students. Our teachers and staff have spent many hours during the spring break week conferencing and training with different programs in order to explore better ways of serving our students. This is not an easy task.

Priority one is to take care of ourselves and our loved ones in order to protect them from the virus. Our other responsibilities include reaching and providing learning opportunities for students. A big comfort can be establishing a routine even under new or stressful circumstances. It is our intent to provide the opportunity for a “modified school routine” to all students. Teachers have been in contact with many of you and this will continue. Online options are available as well as corresponding packets when internet access is not available to every child. Information about any of the instructional materials as well as the pick-up and hand-in process can be confirmed through your child’s teacher.

I would encourage you to use dialogue with each teacher to work out any difficulties that might arise. Each teacher has been assigned an administrator that can assist with any problems that may need further resources. Please use your teachers for the instructional needs or questions.

On Monday, we will be able to assist with general questions outside of instruction through an email hotline: wildcathelp@schleyk12.org. Please know that some questions such as graduation plans, fundraiser delivery, access to the building for student items cannot be determined at this time. As the shelter in place order expires, we will begin to plan for addressing these needs. Our main focus for the immediate time being will be to offer instructional opportunities to our students. It is important to make the most of this down time. A potential six-month gap in instruction is not something to be taken lightly. Any steps we can take now to engage students and strengthen skills will help them as school eventually resumes.

The Board of Education office will be open from 8:30-12:30 Monday through Friday to address any needs by phone. No “in person” contact will occur. Drop-off or pick-up will be available through the drop-box near the intercom entrance door. We can assist you with document needs, tuition payments, and technology issues. Necessary documents as well as tuition payments may be mailed to the Board of Education Office (PO Box 66).

Alternative internet options are being made available, but due to shelter in place order, we will need to postpone the necessary guidance until after April 13th. I encourage your comments both to your child’s teacher and to the email provided above. We are making many new decisions in untested waters. I appreciate our support partners from the Health Department, our local EMA, Schley County Sheriff’s Department, and the Ellaville Police Department. They have been extremely supportive and proactive in sharing information and planning. We also appreciate the quick course offerings in distance learning from Chattahoochee-Flint RESA. It takes a collaborative effort to deal with adversities. Parents, we thank you for bearing with us and supporting our efforts. We will get through this difficult time together.

Brian Hall