Parent/Community Questions and Answers – April 3, 2020

1. **Who will be working during spring break?**
   Polk School District will be closed to all employees during spring break. We understand that this is a stressful situation for everyone. We encourage our employees to take time to rest and regroup over spring break as we prepare for the upcoming months.

2. **Will Grab and Go meals continue for our students?**
   Grab and Go meals will not be distributed during spring break. The meal distribution will resume as regularly scheduled on April 13, 2020 at the assigned locations. Detailed information about pick-up sites and times can be found on our website under Grab and Go Meals.

3. **Will the students and educators have to make up days the schools were closed?**
   No. Governor Kemp and the Georgia Department of Education have afforded flexibility for school districts for these unprecedented times.

4. **When will students turn in the learning packets that have been completed?**
   Polk School District will post collection times at a later date once the shelter-in place is lifted and we have more guidance from the state.

5. **How long will students need to keep working on their distance learning packets?**
   Distance learning packets provided covered 20 days of instruction through Friday, April 17. No additional packets will be distributed.

6. **What will students work on past April 17 when their distance learning packets are complete?**
   A list of resources and online opportunities for continued learning will be provided on each school’s website and individual teacher’s online classrooms. These opportunities will be OPTIONAL and are NOT a requirement.

7. **When is the final deadline for students to submit any work related to spring semester (i.e. make-up work, missing assignments from the third nine weeks)?**
   Friday, May 22, is the last day to submit any work. Students should be in contact with their teachers to coordinate these efforts.
8. **When is the final deadline for credit deficient high school students to complete Odysseyware courses?**
   Friday, May 22, is the last day to complete any work in Odysseyware.

9. **How will students be graded?**
   Students completed the 3rd 9 weeks on Thursday, March 12. After this date, grades for anything assigned will not negatively impact students rather they will only benefit students. Each learning packet will equate to four (4) daily grades and one (1) assessment grade per academic course. Students have been assigned two (2) learning packets to-date—Days 1 to 10 and Days 11 to 20. This does not apply to Advanced Placement or Dual Enrollment courses.

10. **How will final grades be calculated?**
    Grades will be calculated per Polk School District policy excluding the percentage usually designated for the final exam (20% in most courses). The following details the final grade weighting without the final exam.

    **Example of high school student’s average for a normal semester:** 80 average of Assessments - 60% (.60x80=48), 95 average of Daily grades -20% (.20x95=19), 85 on the Final Exam -20% (.20x85=17) for a Final Grade of 84 (48 + 19 +17) at a 100% calculation

    **Example of high school student’s average for this semester:** 80 average of Assessments - 60% (.60x80=48), 95 average of Daily grades -20% (.20x95=19) for a total of 67 (48 + 19) divided by the new 80% calculation (67/.80) = 83.75 rounded up to a final grade of 84.

    **K - 5th Grade:** 55% Assessment, 40% Daily/Quiz, 5% Homework

    **Middle School:** 60% Assessment, 20% Daily/Homework

    **High School:** 60% Assessment, 20% Daily/Homework

    **High School Electives:**

    **P.E.:** 60% Participation; 20% Dressing Out; 20% Notebook/Assessment

    **Health:** 60% Assessment Grades; 20% Daily Grades

    **Art:** 60% Projects, Portfolio, Research; 20% Daily Grades, Sketchbook, Review;

    **Band:** 60% Participation and Performances; 20% Objective Grades

    **Drama:** 60% Class Participation; 20% Performances, Journal Projects, Portfolios

    **CTAE Classes:** 50% Participation, Lab, Project Grade; 20% Objective Assessment Grades; 20% Employability Skills/Work Ethics.

    **Work-Based Learning/CTI:** 50% Employer Evaluation; 50% Portfolio, Daily Participation, and Work-Wage Documentation.

    **Alternate Setting:** 60% Assessment, 20% Daily, 20% Quiz
11. What is the cut-off date for Valedictorian/Salutatorian calculations?
Friday, May 22 will be the cut-off date for Valedictorian/Salutatorian calculations.

12. Will a student’s lowest grade still be dropped per the retest option policy?
Teachers will follow these guidelines for the 3rd 9 weeks.

13. How will promotion and retention be addressed for 2019-2020?
Promotion and retention will be based upon the students’ performance for the majority of the school year (1st-3rd nine weeks). Grades will be assigned for the 4th 9 weeks; however, these grades will be considered “hold-harmless.” They will not decrease students’ final grades. These grades can only help students.

14. Will Polk County have Camp WinShape this year?
No, Polk School District will not be hosting Camp WinShape this year. It has been cancelled.

15. Will there be a summer school for high school?
No. Polk School District will not have a summer school for any grade level this year. Therefore, it is imperative that any student that was behind at the end of the 3rd 9 weeks, contact his or her teacher as soon as possible.

16. Will year-end field trips be held once the shelter in place has been lifted for Georgia?
No. All field trips have been cancelled for the remainder of the year. Administrators have been directed to coordinate with sponsors to address refunds from vendors, as well as refunds to parents.

17. How and when will Pre-K and Kindergarten Registration be done?
Pre-K and kindergarten registration will take place online this year. The registration window will open on May 4, 2020. We will conduct an in-person registration for any families that may have had difficulty with the online registration that will be schedule for this summer.

18. Will students still be allowed to participate in athletics and practices?
No. All Georgia High School Association (GHSA) activities and sports have been cancelled for the year. Students and coaches will not be allowed to practice or compete at any school facility.

19. Will high schools have a prom?
High schools will not have a prom during the regularly scheduled times, nor during the rain dates. Once the shelter-in-place and social distancing
requirements have been lifted for our state and country, schools will schedule a time for our students to have a prom.

20. Will high schools have a graduation?
Yes, both Cedartown and Rockmart High School will have a graduation. We do not have a date at this time. Once the shelter-in-place and social distancing bans have been lifted, both schools will make arrangements, as well as announcements pertaining to graduation.

21. Will schools have year-end awards?
All of our schools have wonderful year-end awards programs as ways to spotlight the accomplishments of our students. Unfortunately, this year we will cancel all programs with the exception of Senior Honors Night. This awards program will done in a digital format without student, parent or educator gatherings.

22. When will employees be allowed to pick up any necessary personal items from school?
Once the shelter-in-place has been lifted, any employee that needs to obtain an essential item from their classroom or office can schedule an appointment to come pick up the item. At no time are children allowed in the schools.

23. How will students pick up personal items such as items in lockers, band instruments, or sporting equipment?
Administrators will work with those in charge of these programs to coordinate pick-up times and procedures. When the shelter-in-place is lifted, parents may contact the office to schedule a time to come pick up any items left in students’ lockers.

24. How will library books be returned to school?
Student can bring their library books back to the school when they return their distance learning packets.

25. How will yearbooks be distributed this year?
We will coordinate yearbook distribution to correspond with packet return after the shelter-in-place has been lifted.