We are now in week four of a new learning environment due to COVID-19. As we move forward during this unprecedented time, we want to provide updates on a number of important topics.

Remote Learning

Beginning the week of April 20, UCPS will transition into phase four of the Remote Learning Plan. During this week, new learning of new standards will begin for all students. The work will be optional. However, students are encouraged to stay engaged and participate in learning opportunities.

For high schools, new learning with new standards will begin Monday, April 20 and middle schools will begin on Tuesday, April 21. For elementary schools, new learning with new standards will be phased in by subject and begin Thursday, April 23. In addition, more Pre-K – fifth grade materials will be mailed to elementary parents by Monday, April 20.

While district leaders continue to seek guidance from the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction about grades, teachers will track participation, provide ongoing feedback and communication with students.

Additional information about schedules and coursework will be communicated by the end of the week. Parents should contact teachers if they have questions about how to access assignments, the level of rigor of assignments or remote learning coursework/materials.

As a reminder, the EmpowerED Family Portal is available for free learning resources for all grade levels. Click here to review the UCPS Remote Learning Plan.

Board of Education approves changes to graduation requirements for Class of 2020

During the April 7 Union County Board of Education meeting, board members approved changes to graduation requirements for the UCPS Senior Class of 2020. The changes, which were adopted because of COVID-19 and the associated March 16 – May 15 school closure, align with the amended graduation plan approved by the NC Board of Education on March 27.

As part of the updated graduation requirements, UCPS high school seniors are now required to have a minimum of 22 credits by their originally scheduled graduation date. Prior to Tuesday’s vote, current UCPS seniors would have been required to have a minimum of 28 credits to graduate with a high school diploma. Parents of high school seniors will receive more detailed information this week.

Devices and Wi-Fi access
UCPS is working to ensure that all 6th – 12th grade students have access to a Chromebook. Middle and high schools will distribute devices on Thursday, April 9. Principals will contact parents about the distribution process and time.

If your student is in need of Wi-Fi access, a nearby school can be a resource. Internet access is not only available inside school buildings. Wi-Fi connectivity can be accessed from school parking lots.

As a reminder, school buildings are closed and staff will not be on campus to assist with any technology matters. To keep areas safe, deputies and officers will patrol campuses to enforce social distancing guidelines.

**Spring Break**

UCPS will follow the scheduled spring break calendar (April 9-17). April 9 is an Optional Teacher Workday and April 10 is a UCPS Holiday. Teachers and staff will not provide remote learning opportunities during this time.

**Meal schedules during spring break**

Since March 17, UCPS has served more than 60,000 meals to families from all across the county. We will continue this service during spring break, but meals will not be provided on Friday, April 10, which is a UCPS Holiday. Families will receive an additional meal on Thursday, April 9.

The meal service will operate on its normal schedule during spring break, April 13-17, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the four sites. As a reminder, meals are no longer served on weekends. Click here for a list of community organizations that are providing meals and other resources for families on Saturdays and Sundays.

**UCPS fields and facilities**

While UCPS encourages students to engage in healthy physical activity, please remember that due to local and state directives, all school facilities including all athletic fields are closed. For the safety of our community, we ask that you please adhere to the guidelines.

**CATA Lottery**

The Central Academy of Technology and Arts application period is open until April 27 at 5 p.m. To learn more about CATA, visit the school’s website. For information about the application process and to apply, visit the Student Assignment webpage.