

April 17, 2020



Dear Stokes School Families,

I am writing today to share important news about Stokes School's distance learning schedule for the remainder of the school year. Due to the extension of the public health emergency in Washington, DC, **we will continue distance learning until May 29th, at which time we will conclude the school year. These changes are in alignment with the Mayor's announcement today about DCPS's schedule and request that all schools follow accordingly.** We will provide additional information about the School Year 2020-2021 calendar by May 15th.

This has been an unprecedented time for our city, our school, and our students. But what has made our school community strong is our commitment to our students. That commitment has continued while we teach and learn from home, and it will continue when we are able to come together again.

I want to thank you for the support and love you have shown to our scholars and our community each and every day. Because of your guidance, our scholars have continued to learn from home under very challenging circumstances.

As I receive additional information, I will continue to update you on what the public health and need for social distancing will mean for our school community. If you have additional questions, please feel free to contact me or any member of our school's leadership teams. If you have any issues accessing the online materials please e-mail distancelearning@ewstokes.org.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Erika Bryant".

Erika Bryant
Executive Director

Below are some answers to Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ):

Q: How will my child's learning be monitored or assessed?

A: Students' progress will be monitored based on responses they provide to assignments, written work they submit, participation during live lessons (or engagement with recorded lessons), and conversations they engage in during one-on-one conferences with teachers. Standardized tests, including PARCC, have been cancelled for this school year.

Q: What resources are available to students if they begin to face challenges with learning?

A: Initially, please set a time to discuss these challenges with your child's teacher during their office hours. Teachers will coordinate support for your child depending on their needs.

Q: What options are available if my child is struggling emotionally during this time?

A: For Brookland, our School Counselor, Caira Temple, has Zoom office hours. Click [here](#) to sign up for a session.

For East End, our School Social Worker, Angela Ewing-Boyd, has Zoom office hours. Please click [here](#) to sign up for a session.

Additionally, the Mental Health Hotline for DC Children and a Families is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week: 888-793-4357.

Q: Prolonged screen time sometimes causes a negative shift in attitude in my child. What should I do if they need the screen time to stay engaged in their learning?

A: Make sure to provide your child with frequent breaks to break up the screen time. Lessons will be pre-recorded and available if your child cannot join class during its scheduled time. If your child is unable to complete an assignment or needs an extension, discuss the situation with their teacher.

Q: Will this situation effect my child's ability to be promoted to the next grade?

A: No. We are hopeful that students will continue their learning throughout this time, and we are actively planning for ways to support students when they reenter the school building.

Q: My child has an IEP, how will they receive all of their services during this time?

A: Students will continue to receive the majority of their services during this time. Learning Specialists will hold pull-out sessions with their students using Zoom and other online programs. Learning Specialists will also plan with general education teachers to ensure that the assignments students receive from their teachers are modified and accommodated for individual needs. Learning Specialists will also hold office hours for students and parents should they require additional support.

Where appropriate, students who receive Related Services will be offered Teletherapy sessions by our contracted Related Services Providers, including Speech, Occupational Therapy, Behavior Support Services,

and Physical Therapy. Please keep in mind that some students' services require face to face direct support which cannot be done online. In these cases, service hours will be made up once we return to the school building.

We will offer meetings through Zoom for students whose annual IEP review meetings are due during the time that we are out of the school building. We will also offer eligibility meetings through Zoom for students whose evaluations were completed prior to closing of the school building.

Please direct any specific questions you may have about your child's IEP to their Learning Specialist.

Q: My family does not have the capacity for my child to attend live classes either because of lack of devices or lack of bandwidth. Will they be penalized?

A: No. We recognize that during this challenging time, families will have differing schedules and ability to support scholars with their learning activities. Lessons will be recorded and posted in the Google Classroom so that students will have flexibility in accessing the material. If your family needs additional access to technology, Stokes school has some resources to lend. Please email distancelearning@ewstokes.org to inquire.