



Caswell County Schools

Alert Now- Opening 2020-2021 School Year

(Excerpt of below message was sent out via Alert Now on August 11, 2020. The full transcript, providing additional information, is provided below.)

August 11, 2020

Good evening. This is Dr. Sandra Carter, Superintendent of Caswell County Schools. It is Tuesday evening, August 11th at approximately 6:45pm. This message will also be posted on the Caswell County Schools district website tomorrow. The purpose of the message is to welcome you to the 2020-2021 school year and answer some questions you might have surrounding the start of the school year. August is always exciting for students, families, and teachers as it is the start of a new school year. Although the pandemic has changed the way we do many things, this year still holds the same excitement and anxiety always felt around the first day of school. We want to reassure you that we are excited to have your child in Caswell County Schools for the 2020-2021 school year. We will assist them in learning and support you and your child through each step of our journey through this year. Teachers have worked hard this week to prepare for a successful year.

What will the first days and weeks of school look like?

August 17th is the first day of school. During the first two weeks of school at the elementary level, students and families will be given opportunities to learn and explore Chromebooks, how to access assignments, and how to work through new procedures. At the elementary level, each child/parent will receive a phone call from your child's teacher on the first day of school to discuss the learning opportunities available online and offline for students. If the student is not available for the first phone call, please be assured that their teacher will continue to call during the day and week to reach the student or parent. It is important that your school has updated contact information.

On August 18th- 21st, elementary teachers will begin to hold Morning Meetings online for those who have internet access and devices (students who are picking up Chromebooks will not begin Morning Meetings until after Chromebook is received). Teachers will reach out to families over the phone who do not have the internet or devices to continue to prepare students and families for remote learning.

At the middle school, each student will login to a homeroom session (which will be an adjusted schedule that includes an orientation). The orientation will include the following: how to follow the schedule and how to get to their Google Hangout, which will

be sent by their teachers. During the day and throughout the week, teachers will contact students who do not have internet connection.

At the high school, all students will be contacted by their core teachers to explain routines and procedures. On the high school level, each student will login to each class which will be running its normal schedule beginning 7:50am. The high school is running a parallel, synchronous schedule with Piedmont Community College.

What type of school supplies will my student need this year?

Elementary Students	Middle School Students	High School Students
Your teacher will send you a list of needed supplies.	Paper	Paper
	Pen & Pencil	Pen & Pencil
	One Highlighter	Highlighter
	One - 3" Binder	Four - 1"-2" Binders
	8 Dividers for Binder	
	1 Box Colored Pencils	

What will learning look like this year? All teachers are creating an online course for students. Students with internet access will be able to log on throughout the day and access learning materials, videos, and meet with his/her teacher. For students who do not have the internet, learning materials and videos will be downloaded onto flash drives for students to access learning materials.

When will flash drives be available for pick-up? Each week elementary students who will access learning materials via flash drives will be able to pick them up on Thursdays from 3-6 pm or on Friday mornings from 9-11 for the following week. At the elementary level, the first instructional flash drives for those that need them will be picked up August 20th and 21st. These flash drives will contain lessons and instruction for the week of August 24-28 which will continue to focus on remote learning expectations and needs.

At the middle school, flash drive deployment will begin on August 28-August 31st, following this pick-up, flash drives will be available for pick-up every two weeks on a Friday for pick-up. At the high school level, flash drives deployment will be every Thursday from 8:00am-5:00pm. Students requiring access to content videos and instruction will receive flash drives on Thursday, August 20th.

When will Chromebooks be rolled out? At the elementary level, August 18th and 19th are designated as days to rollout Chromebooks. Each elementary school has scheduled pick up times for students. You may check the school's websites, call the school or check the letter from your child's principal and teacher for more details. On the middle school level, Chromebooks were distributed Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday. At the high school level, Chromebooks will be distributed Wednesday student's last

names starting with A-L from 8am-6pm, Thursday student's last names beginning M-Z 8am-6pm, and Friday 8:00-3:30pm.

How will my child be counted present? Students will be counted present by participating in classroom hangouts, two way conversations with teachers such as meetings or phone calls, and/or when they complete daily assignments.

What if we have questions and need support? We encourage you to reach out to your child's teacher and school. Teachers will have daily hangouts where parents and students can join the meeting or call in to have questions answered. Teachers will notify parents of other avenues of communication such as email, Remind, and Dojo as well.

How do I support my student at home? Some of the ways in which you can support your student's learning at home is to create a place for learning for your student. Communicate with your child's teacher regularly, review daily checklists, and classroom meeting times. To additionally support your student, families may access recorded assignments through the students Learning Management System (LMS) either Google Classroom or Canvas.

Students will login to Canvas or Google Classroom at the time of their class. If a student does not have access to the Internet, the student will be contacted by each classroom teacher. For the high school, 9th and 10th grade students and parents will be invited to an informational session regarding Remote Learning in a High School Setting. Parents and students who are in 11th and 12th grade will be invited to the informational session the second week of school. The dates will be located on the school website and an Alert Now message will be sent to families.

We know this year will be different. Even though we wish we could greet students each morning at the front door of the school, we look forward to working with your child through remote instruction. In doing so, I ask for your patience, flexibility, and, of course, your continued partnership.

A copy of this message will be posted on the Caswell County Schools district website on Tuesday.

Thank you and have a good evening,

Dr. Sandra Carter, Superintendent