

# Tattnall County Board of Education

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April 2, 2020

Dear Tattnall County School System Students, Parents, and Guardians,

I know that this has been an uncertain time for all of us. The business of school has been turned upside down, and we have had to rethink what we do, how we do it, and frankly, why we do it. When the pandemic first began, we hoped we would miss only a couple of weeks of school, but we learned yesterday from our Governor, our school year is over. Let me reassure you that even though we will not be going back to school for the 2019/2020 school year, everything is going to be ok.

As far as what we missed this year, remember fourth nine weeks always includes one week of spring break and two weeks of Milestones testing. After Milestones testing, our schools begin to have the memory making events, such as field days, honors programs, and field trips, events that we will all miss this year.

**Placement for 2020-2021 school year:** Our teachers and administrators will look at each child's individual record to determine the best placement for the 2020-2021 school year. It is important to remember that we had almost completed the 3rd nine weeks of school on our last day, which was March 13th. If your child was making adequate progress in his/her classes as of that date, he/she will be promoted to the next grade or receive course credit.

If your child was not making adequate progress, then we will host virtual or phone meetings with parents to discuss grades and missing work and to determine what is in the best interest of the child. When school begins in the fall of 2020, we will begin as we always do with diagnostic tests to determine our students' strengths and challenges, and our awesome teachers will meet your children where they are and work to help them be successful.

**Home Learning:** In the meantime, we are providing resources your students and you can use to continue learning at home. **Please know these are voluntary, and no assessments or grades will be given.**

**For those with internet access:** On our district website, we have shared the login information for our students so they can work with the electronic resources that we use in school every day. You can access the link at <http://bit.ly/2xFjS5Y> or find it on our website [www.tattnailschools.org](http://www.tattnailschools.org) in the Coronavirus Alert section. It is not mandatory that our students access these resources because we know that many parts of our county simply do not have the internet coverage to provide the signal necessary to use these resources.

**For those without internet access:** If you do not have internet access, we will create printed resource packets that will be available upon request. Please utilize your school's normal communication avenues – Remind, DoJo, email, text messaging – to request the resource packet. You can also request a packet from school personnel at one of our feeding sites. Please be sure to give your child's name and grade level. These packets will be for students who do not have the ability to access the online resources. We will *not* ask our parents and guardians to teach *new* standards or concepts. We worry that doing so will frustrate our students as they try to complete packets without teacher guidance and direction or the necessary supplies at home to do so.

*"Whatever It Takes"*

**Additional Ideas:** Outside of school assignments, there are many ways to enrich your child's learning. Students can be encouraged to read - a book, a magazine, the newspaper. Parents/Guardians can spend time talking to their children about current events. There are a number of activities that can be done around the home that will help students continue to think and grow. **We don't want you to worry about trying to recreate school at home.**

As Dr. Caitlin Dooley, Deputy Superintendent, Teaching and Learning at Georgia Department of Education said, "Children thrive when they are learning. We have an opportunity to explore the world outside of school right now. Play, explore, and talk with children. Ask them what they are wondering. Listen and talk about what they want to discuss. Maintain children's curiosity and ease fear by providing a steady flow of learning opportunities. Go on [virtual field trips](#) to places far away from home. Meet new characters in [digital books](#). Learn about [new ideas](#) by watching television." These are wonderful ideas to help children of all ages continue to learn and grow.

**A special note to seniors:** We are as devastated as you are that you are missing your senior year. We want you to know that we are holding out hope that once the pandemic is over, we will be able to hold some type of graduation ceremony for you this summer. We will send your final transcripts to your designated higher education institutions beginning the first week in June. If possible, we will also contact you with an announcement about a graduation ceremony at that time.

The Technical College System of Georgia (TCSG) is suspending placement exam requirements for admission to summer and fall 2020 classes. The system is also suspending the requirement to submit a high school transcript or equivalency transcript in addition to waiving the requirement that students must submit scores on the ACCUPLACER exam.

The University System of Georgia (USG) will not require prospective students applying for admission in the fall of 2020 to submit an ACT or SAT score. Additional details can be found on the Georgia Department of Education website:

gadoe.org

>Learning and Curriculum

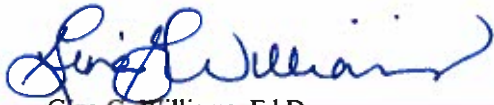
>Assessment

Scroll down to the section titled "ACT, AP, PSAT & SAT"

**Meals:** We are continuing to feed our students with meal pick-ups occurring on Mondays and Wednesdays except for the week of spring break, which is the week of April 13-17. Our school nutrition staff will begin preparing lunches again on Monday, April 20<sup>th</sup>.

**A final word:** I pray that this letter will help to relieve some stress that you and/or your child may be facing about school. Please stay safe! Remember to follow all guidelines for handwashing and social distancing. We will get through this together.

#warriorstrong  
#whateverittakes



Gina G. Williams, Ed.D.  
Superintendent