

August 28, 2020

Dear Lake Braddock Families,

Welcome to the 2020-2021 school year! I hope you have had a fun-filled summer with family and friends. Our staff has worked incredibly hard all summer preparing for this upcoming school year. Guided by our school's vision and our shift towards virtual learning, we have focused our work on having an outstanding opening of the 2020-21 school year!

We have a great deal of information about returning to school on our [web site](#). There you will find our bell schedule, our purple and gold calendar, links to required forms, orientation links, and other return-to-school details. Please take some time to look through the information as we move forward towards September 8.

Our theme for this year is **#BruinsCARE** and it signifies our commitment for every learner to be **Connected, Adaptable, Resilient and Engaged**. This theme will be evident throughout our work all year. Please know that this fall will be very different from this past spring. Students will be engaged every Tuesday through Friday with four synchronous classes per day. Tuesdays and Thursdays are "Purple Days" and students will meet with their classes in periods 1, 3, 5 and 7. Wednesdays and Fridays are "Gold Days" and students will meet with their even day classes, periods 2, 4, 6, and 8. Each class block will be 80 minutes in length and will be held through Blackboard Collaborate Ultra (BBCU).

Mondays will be used for intervention, enrichment and support. All students will be provided with asynchronous work, to be completed outside of regular class time and may be completed on Mondays. In addition, on Mondays, all students are expected to login with their Advisory teacher between 8:10 and 8:30 a.m. This check-in will also meet the state requirement for attendance on this day. Teachers will be available during the morning hours for intervention and office hours. Some students will be directly invited to attend instructional sessions for intervention or support. Time on Mondays has also been designated for student activities, clubs, and teams to meet and connect.

As we return to learning this fall, social emotional learning and support will be critical. While components of social emotional learning will be integrated into all courses, we have dedicated the first half of our 4th block for this purpose and called it our Advisory. During Advisory, class sizes have been significantly reduced, so that each student can connect with a trusted adult who can serve as a mentor, advisor and support system. In addition, the students in each Advisory can connect as a community of learners who support each other. Advisory lessons will focus on a variety of topics including belonging, purpose, digital citizenship, academic career planning, goal setting, Portrait of a Graduate skills, building community, organizational/study skills, and other FCPS required lessons. These lessons have been traditionally taught in other classes but will now be taught through our Advisory class. Students will also meet synchronously with their Advisory teacher on Monday mornings as a check-in, and this will also serve as each student's attendance for Mondays.

New Student Orientations

This year, we welcome approximately 900 new Bruins to our school community! Our 7th grade, 9th grade, and new student orientations will take place asynchronously and each site is linked below. Please take time to check out this information as you immerse yourself into Bruin Nation!

- [7th grade and new MS student orientation \(JumpStart\)](#)
- [9th grade and new HS student orientation](#)

Parent Academy

Communication in a virtual environment is incredibly important and over the next several weeks and months, we will be providing several opportunities for you to learn about the upcoming school year and how to support your child. This year, we are beginning a series of events and activities for parents to participate in, with the goal of learning and interacting with the school. These events fall under our “Parent Academy” and will cover a wide range of topics from meeting teachers and administrators to supporting your child in a virtual environment. Below is our first series of Parent Academy events, along with information on our virtual orientation for students.

Preview the FCPS Family Life Education (FLE) Program and opt-out information – Monday, August 31, 6:00 pm – 7:00 pm.

Special Education Parent Coffee with Q&A Opportunity – Tuesday, September 1, 7:00 pm – 8:00 pm.

LBSS All-Virtual Student Orientation – Wednesday, September 2, 9:00 a.m.

In order to prepare each student for the beginning of school, we want to ensure that all students are excited for the upcoming year and can successfully connect with their class environment. On Wednesday, September 2, all students are asked to log on and meet with their Advisory teacher at 9:00 a.m. through Blackboard Collaborate Ultra. The unique classroom link for each student will be sent to their @fcpschools.net (Gmail) account by Monday, August 31.

During the virtual orientation, Advisory teachers will provide a wealth of information and resources that will be helpful to ensure the success of each child. These include access to class links, suggestions for organizing class links, bell schedule and suggested breaks, importance of self-care, purpose and function of our advisory course, synchronous vs. asynchronous learning, and much more. Please make plans for your child to attend.

Return to Learn Parent Coffee – Wednesday, September 2, 7:00 p.m.

We will hold a virtual parent coffee on Wednesday, September 2 at 7:00 p.m. The link will be sent out that morning. The purpose of this event is to provide our parents with the most up-to-date information in preparation for our Return to Learning on September 8.

LBSS Back to School Orientation for Families – initial release on Wednesday, September 2; update on Friday, September 11

Student schedules will be released through [StudentVUE](#) and [ParentVUE](#) (SIS) on Wednesday, September 2nd. Once you have your child’s schedule, you and your child can visit our Back to

School Orientation for Families site to access a welcome video from your child's teachers, check out the course syllabus, view contact information for teachers and staff, along with many other resources for students and parents. The site will be available on our [web site](#) on September 2.

Our Back to School Orientation site will be updated on Friday, September 11, with additional information on attendance, curriculum, grading, expectations, student support and much more. We will send out a notification once the site is updated.

Back to School Forms

I know you have been anticipating the receipt of our annual Back to School packet with forms and information. This packet has traditionally been in hard copy format and this year, we have shifted to a digital format. While some documents are purely for informational purposes, other forms are required for the start of school. These forms are most important as they help us to keep the most up-to-date information for your child. Please take a moment to access the [digital forms](#) on our web site and return those that are applicable.

We have a wonderful school community that is committed to the success of every Bruin, and I feel very fortunate to work alongside of you to make this school year the very best it can be. I look forward to connecting with you and your child virtually this fall and hopefully in-person in the near future. Thank you for your incredible support of all things Lake Braddock!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "DWS", is centered below the word "Sincerely,".

Daniel W. Smith, Ed.D.
Principal