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April 15, 2020

To Richmond County School System Families,

Thank you for partnering with us to ensure that distance learning has continued successfully during these unprecedented times. We appreciate your commitment, engagement and support of your students, our teachers and staff throughout the coronavirus related school closures. We are proud of the work that has been accomplished.

Georgia remains under an active executive order to shelter in place to slow the spread of coronavirus until April 30, 2020. Governor Kemp has declared active State of Emergency through May 13, 2020 due to the coronavirus. As a result of statewide coronavirus school closures, The Georgia Department of Education provided school districts general guidance to relax requirements traditionally in place for grading, promotion and graduation. These circumstances will impact the remainder of the distance learning program for our students. Here are a few updates to help you prepare your family for the end of the 2019-2020 school year:

- **The last day of distance learning will be May 8, 2020.** No additional distance learning assignments will be given to students after May 8. Teachers will accept work completed during distance learning through May 22, 2020.
- Beginning April 20, 2020, our meal distribution program will shift to a Monday, Wednesday and Friday distribution schedule and continue through May 22, 2020. Meals for Tuesday and Thursday will be provided during the prior distribution day.
- After April 15, 2020, distance learning lessons will not introduce new content. Teachers will offer students the opportunity to retake and resubmit assignments to improve grades. Students who do not need to resubmit work to improve grades will continue to receive work to strengthen mastery of subjects and skills taught throughout the 2019-2020 school year. **Any work submitted after March 16, 2020 will only have a positive impact on a student's grade.**
- We are planning scheduled times for students to pick up items left at school between May 13-May 22. Details regarding pick up times will be shared once they are reviewed by public health officials and we have clearance to enter school facilities.

The Richmond County School System will use the following grading guidelines for the 2019-2020 school year:

- **For Students in Kindergarten – 8th Grade:** Work completed during distance learning that improves a student's overall grades may be considered. Students will receive a final grade of PASS or FAIL for their courses based on overall content mastery. For students in grades 4-8, the minimum score to receive a passing grade is 70.
- For the 2019-2020 school year, the Richmond County School System will waive its promotion and retention policy. Placement committees made of teachers, principals, and parents will have the flexibility to make placement decisions for students who do not meet traditional promotion criteria.
- **High School Courses:** Teachers will give students a choice to accept their grades as of March 19th as their final grades for 2019-2020 or to continue to earn grades for the remainder of the 2019-2020 school year to improve their grade(s). Teachers will consider work completed during distance learning if the work improves a student's final course average.
- Students will not take final exams for high school courses; therefore, final exams will not be counted in the final course average.
- Graduating seniors must earn the required 23 credits in order to graduate. Students will not be penalized for circumstances beyond their control due to the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Dual enrollment credits are awarded by the University System of Georgia or other participating colleges. Students who complete Dual Enrollment course requirements will receive credit, as determined by their college or university.
- Advanced Placement (AP) students who wish to take the AP exams for college credit will do so virtually following the guidelines from the College Board. AP exams are scored by the College Board and are not calculated into the student's course average.

If you have any questions about grading or end of year plans, please contact your teachers or principal. Thank you again for making the best of a challenging school year and for continuing to work together to finish the year strong.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "K. Bradshaw". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "K" and a long, sweeping underline.

Dr. Kenneth Bradshaw
Superintendent of Schools