

Got questions? We've got (some) answers!

We know that many of you have questions and concerns about what the future holds for Holmes County students. At this point in time, we certainly don't have all the answers, but we'd like to share with you what we know to hopefully ease a little of the uncertainty many of our students, parents, and teachers are feeling. What we do know is that in order for us to be successful, we must all pull together. Holmes County has a great history of doing just that in times of trials, and we have no doubt that our citizens will rise to occasion and be stronger than ever before!

When can we expect our schools to reopen?

Governor DeSantis has stated that students will not return to school before April 15. He stated that every two weeks the state would reevaluate the COVID-19 situation and then make determinations on reopening our schools.

How will my child continue learning from home? I don't want him/her to get behind!

On March 30th, we will begin remote education with all of our students. Our schools have been working diligently to contact each of our families this week to make sure that everyone is safe and to survey students' ability to access an online device (laptop, cell phone, iPad, tablet, etc.) **In many cases, cell phones can be as sufficient as computers** when submitting assignments, decreasing the need to purchase additional computers, tablets or internet service. If you have not heard from your child's school please email your child's teacher or principal. All HDSB email addresses follow the format firstname.lastname@hdsb.org. Anticipate a "welcome" call/email from your child's teacher the week of March 30th. Many of our teachers will be using the Remind app, so you're encouraged to go ahead and download it now.

What if I don't have a device that has internet access?

If you do not have any access to a device or internet you will be able to obtain a paper work packet for your student. The work packets will be distributed every two weeks on Wednesdays along with meals. You can meet the bus delivering meals or you can pick up your student's packet from school as you get their meals. The packets will contain two weeks of assignments for your student and their progress can be shared with your child's teacher during their weekly contact with the school. These packets will not be returned to our schools. Rather, teachers will discuss those packets with your student during their weekly contact.

What if my child needs help with his/her assignments?

If you have a question about any online assignments or paper work packets you can either email your child's teacher, send a message to them in the Remind app, or speak with them about it during your weekly contact.

Will my child still be promoted to the next grade?

If your child was on track to be promoted prior to the closure, he or she is still on that path. Your school will be making contact with you if your child was in danger of being retained this school year. Because there are no state assessments this year, 3rd graders' promotion will be determined by classroom grades. We will be working closely with all parents to ensure that our students are ready to enter the next grade level in the fall of 2020. If you have concerns about your student's academic progress please contact your child's teacher during the week of March 30th. Parent input into promotion decisions will be very important.

What about state assessments?

All state assessments have been cancelled for 2019-20. For Civics, U.S. History, Biology, Algebra 1 and Geometry, the state has waived the mandatory requirement for the EOC to count as 30% of the grade. The grade for the course will only reflect classroom work this school year.

Students taking Algebra I **this year** will have three options to meet the Algebra I EOC requirement for graduation:

1. They can take the Algebra EOC at a later testing date.
2. They can pass the Geometry EOC next year and use that score.
3. They can use a concordant ACT or SAT score.

All of these assessments are given in the fall, spring and summer at each of our schools.

10th grade students will still need to score a 350 or higher on the 10th grade FSA ELA to earn a standard high school diploma. They will be given several opportunities in the future to earn this score. This requirement can also be met by earning a concordant score on the ACT or SAT.

My child is a senior. How does this closure affect graduation requirements?

Seniors who have not passed their required assessments for graduation (10th Grade FSA ELA and Algebra I EOC) will have them waived for this school year. However, all seniors will still have to earn their 24 or 18 credits earned and have a GPA of 2.0 or higher to graduate.

Seniors who are currently passing the courses they are enrolled in to meet graduation requirements will be on track to graduate. However, if your senior is making up credits or needs to improve his/her GPA to a 2.0 or higher, please contact your school.

Will we be able to have graduation ceremonies?

At this time, it's too early to make a call on graduation ceremonies. We will provide more information after April 15.

Will the school year have to be extended to make up this time? Do I need to change my summer plans?

By following our instructional continuity plan, we are still instructing our students and meeting state requirements. We have no plans to extend the school year past our current calendar.

Please continue to monitor our mobile app, Facebook page, and website. We will share information as we receive it from the Florida Department of Education and CDC. Please remember that sometimes information changes hourly, so please remember to check the date and/or time of any post you see!