

Team CMS Families:

This email includes information on next week's schedule, the BCPS calendar, and remote learning. I will be sending information on clubs early next week.

NEXT WEEK - Please see attached schedule for next week, which is a shortened week. Students have off on Friday.

SCHOOL CALENDAR - As students began the school year virtually due to the uncertainty of COVID-19, it was recommended that the 2020-2021 School Information Calendar not be printed for distribution in order to maintain the health and safety of our staff and students. However, it can be accessed <https://www.bcps.org/calendars/wallcalendar.pdf>

REMOTE LEARNING - We know that the virtual learning environment is still very new to all of us. As is the case with any new environment, we want to listen and respond to the insights from all stakeholders. Based on parent survey responses, meetings with teachers, student input, and continued guidance from BCPS curriculum offices, we are taking the following actions, going forward.

- In general, the BCPS lesson delivery plan consists of 2 lessons and accompanying assignments for classes that meet twice per week and 1 lesson and accompanying assignment for those that meet once per week. Adjustments may be made in certain subjects, especially during shortened weeks.
- The House Group Meetings on B2 will be utilized as Cougar Time. For those of you who are new to CMS, Cougar Time is a "guided study hall," of sorts, in which students will have an opportunity to make-up missing work, get extra help on assignments, and/or work on organization. We are working on a plan to eventually have students go to content-area teachers during this time. Stay tuned. In the meantime, students will continue report to their House Group Advocate for Cougar Time.
- Starting OCTOBER 19th, The A1 (usually Monday) House Group Meeting will be moved to A2 (usually Tuesday) in order to more evenly distribute synchronous meeting times.
- No asynchronous assignments or homework will be given in House Meetings.
- Consistent Due Dates for Assignments - Due date for A1 and A2 classes is Thursday at 11:59pm. Due date for B1 and B2 classes is Sunday at 11:59pm. Exceptions may need to be made to this schedule based upon scope of assignment (e.g. musical performance recordings) and structure of school week (e.g. shortened week). Please Note: Having these consistent due dates (Thu. and Sun.) will cause those 2 days to be disproportionately loaded with assignments in each student's calendar.
- Going forward, all teachers will attach due dates to assignments and lesson folders.
- Show What You Know (SWYK) assignments (and assessments) should be prioritized since they are most prominently graded. Going forward, teachers will label those assignments with SWYK accompanied by the concept. (e.g. SWYK – adding integers). PLEASE NOTE: If you hover over the assignment with your mouse, you will see to which content area that assignment belongs.
- When appropriate, teachers will use a multiple choice or a shorter SWYK activity in lieu of an assignment that may require an extended written response.

- Staying organized, being able to check assignments, and otherwise navigating Schoology successfully can help to address workload concerns. There is a page on our website dedicated to these areas - https://catonsvillems.bcps.org/virtual_learning The two videos by Mr. Dungey (1 for students and 1 for parents) seem to be especially helpful.