Greetings High School Families,

Thank you so much for supporting our students during these unprecedented times. It is important to understand that home-learning for our students is new to both you and your high school student; it will be different from our regular school experience. In their community school, students are together in small and large groups with much of their day spent learning, discussing ideas with their peers, working in groups, and doing individual and group activities and challenges. As such, now that your student is at home, the learning day or time schedule can be modified. A schedule that works for both you and your student is still very important. As AACPS teachers and students transition to online learning over the next two weeks (3/30/20 - 4/8/20), you may wish to begin to think what your flexible home-learning schedule may look like. NOTE: Spring Break is 4/9/20-4/13/20).

During the week of 3/30/20 high school teachers will be receiving professional development to set up their Google Classroom and learn how to use Google Meet and Google Voice to communicate with their students. They will also be working in their Google Classrooms to set up online student learning opportunities to begin 4/6/20. Once teachers have set up their Google Classrooms, they may begin to reach out to their students to begin having small group chats or speak to them about online learning opportunities; they will also post learning materials and assignments inside Google Classroom. Your student will be contacted by their teachers when their Google Classroom is up and running.

Beginning on 4/13/20, high school teachers will be offering a set 1.5 hour time for their Office Hours Block when the teacher will be available inside the time window from 8:00-11:00 am daily and they will be posting a 1.5 hour teacher availability timeslot for their Learning Opportunity Block during the window of 1:00 pm – 4:00 pm, daily. During the Learning Opportunity Block, students may wish to login to their Google Classroom to have access to their teacher for support with their learning. Teachers will post times when real-time support is available while also posting support materials for student use. Teachers may use Google Meet to offer real-time small group learning support, writing or problem-solving time, or tutoring time during the Learning Opportunity Block, but it isn’t mandatory for your student to participate. All small group learning group sessions will be recorded for your student to view at a time that works for your family, if they are unable to attend online in real time. The Office Hours Block is designed to support students who are struggling with navigating the world of online learning. Your student’s teacher will be available during this time to speak with your student on Google Voice or Google Meet to help them troubleshoot any problems they may be having with learning online.

Setting up a time schedule for learning will help your student understand the expectations you have for continued learning while we are away from school. There is no mandated time when your student must login to work or learn in a real time with their teacher. Your student may login to join their teacher and classmates at posted times, if they are able, but it is not required. We will be posting some schedules you may wish to consider adopting for home use with your high schooler very soon. However, we also know that the world of a high school student is different from their elementary and middle school peers. They will most certainly be doing their work in study groups they have previously set up with friend or classmates; it is fine for them to continue to do so. Please continue to check in the Frequently Asked Questions area on AACPS’s elearning website where answers to questions you have may be posted daily.

Sincerely,

AACPS Academic Team
**Dear Parent or Guardian, Please note:** In order to maximize learning without overwhelming your high school level student, we will be observing an A Day/B Day rotation for teacher support, the same rotation they are used to using in their face-to-face classrooms. Of course, your student may study all subjects daily, if they wish. A routine schedule for learning is important, if children are to get the most out of their learning while at home. Please note that 2-4 hours per day of core academic learning is appropriate for high schoolers in a home-learning online setting.