

Good Evening and Happy Labor Day,

This is Principal Starnes with your weekly updates so please listen carefully.

First, we'd like to acknowledge three concerns that we have heard loud and clear over the past three weeks: (1) screen time, (2) homework, and (3) grades available in PowerSchool.

The administrative leadership team and I are working hard to develop a plan to share with our teachers on September 14<sup>th</sup> which addresses both screen time and homework. In the interim, we have adjusted the schedule for Advisory Block...previously Advisory Block met each day for 45 minutes. Beginning tomorrow, Advisory Block which is required for ALL CMS Schools will only meet on Tuesdays and Thursdays for 45 minutes. Yes, this is a small adjustment, but it is a start and we look forward to sharing more about additional adjustments to our virtual learning plan in the near future. I'm a firm believer that every little bit helps 😊.

As it relates to grades, teachers will begin inputting grades in PowerSchool beginning tomorrow however grades are available for view in Canvas. We asked teachers to hold off on inputting grades in PowerSchool as we knew PowerSchool and Canvas both often have their "own brain" so we wanted to give both systems a chance to settle before adding additional sync challenges. We hope you understand.

### **CMS Eats**

I wanted to let you know about an important change to the CMS Eats at Home program. Last Monday, the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) extended the Summer Food Service Program through Dec. 31, 2020. This means that Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools can continue serving **free** meals to **all** children through the end of 2020. This will help ensure that children 18 and under have access to nutritious food. Again, **all students**, regardless of CEP or free/reduced status, can now continue to receive meals at no charge. The CMS Eats at Home weekly meal bundle program will continue. Families are encouraged to sign up to reserve their bundles through PayPams. No student accounts will be charged. Families who need to create an account can go to [www.PayPAMS.com](http://www.PayPAMS.com). The meal bundles will still be delivered to student bus stops or picked up at the nearest CMS meal site. Detailed information about the program can be found [here](#).

### **SAT and ACT**

We are pleased to announce that after an assessment of CMS safety protocols, school readiness and student needs, CMS senior leadership has made a decision to make schools available for SAT and ACT Saturday testing at College Board or ACT selected sites. This change should allow students to confidently register for the September 26<sup>th</sup> SAT administration or any of the September ACT test administration dates. We the leaders at #SabreNation are excited about this update and thank you for your patience and flexibility. We hope this update will allow your students to successfully pursue their post-secondary plans.

### **Scholarships for Seniors**

Seniors and Parents of Senior Students please make sure you are monitoring the Scholarship List in Naviance as this is the way we are communicating any Scholarship opportunities of which we become aware. These opportunities will include individual College and University awards as well as Local, State and Regional scholarships.

The South Mecklenburg preliminary application to be considered for the NC State Park Scholarship is now available. See below.

The NC State University Park Scholarship Program includes 4 years of tuition and other expenses as well as a computer stipend and personal enrichment experiences. Scholars are selected on the basis of scholarship, leadership, service and character. South Mecklenburg will endorse 2 candidates for this prestigious scholarship. If you are interested in being considered for endorsement by South Meck, you must complete a preliminary application and participate in an interview process.

Applications for the school nomination are now available - <http://bit.ly/SMeckPark>.  
Deadline to be nominated for school endorsement is October 9, 2020.

Note - you may also self-nominate for the Park Scholarship. All students who apply for this scholarship MUST apply to NC State for Fall 2021 admission. Additional information can be found at [park.ncsu.edu](http://park.ncsu.edu)

### **NACAC Virtual College Fair**

Which colleges are you interested in? Attend live, interactive Zoom sessions offered by 600+ colleges at [virtualcollegefairs.org](http://virtualcollegefairs.org) on Sept 13, Oct 12, Oct 18, Nov 8. See the list of colleges. #nacacfairs

### **Rock the Street, Wall Street**

We are super excited to welcome back the Rock the Street, Wall Street program in partnership with LPL Financial. This is a great opportunity for South Meck female students. Girls learn about savings and investments, budgeting, the capital markets and their role in maintaining the welfare of their families and the economy, while simultaneously helping them see the real world application of the math content they learn in the classroom. RTSWS lifts girls' interest and ability to persist in the STEM field of Finance.

- All high school girls from grades 9 through 12 are welcome
- Chapter meetings are held via Zoom for 30 minutes during lunch
- Students and parents will receive more information via their CMS email account

Thank you for listening and have an amazing evening...Go Sabres!!!