



## FUQUA SCHOOL

Dear Fuqua Family,

Over the last seven weeks our Fuqua School Family has deepened our commitment to one-another and leveraged all of our resources to ensure our students continue to learn in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic. I want to take a moment to share my profound appreciation for all our teachers and parents have done to successfully implement distance learning at Fuqua School. Parents and teachers both share the distinction of rock-stars in my book, and I will always remember the manner in which they partnered during a crisis to support student learning.

In May we will be concluding our school year. We will be ending the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter on **Friday, May 15<sup>th</sup>**. This will essentially be the end of the year for students in grades PK3-8. Upper School students will have through **Friday, May 22<sup>nd</sup>** to submit their project-based exams. Final report cards for all students will be posted on **Friday, May 29<sup>th</sup>**.

Distance learning in the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter presented some unique challenges for students and teachers. Teachers adjusted their expectations and modified student workload accordingly, and the school did all it could to get the tools necessary for distance learning in the hands of all students. Despite the tremendous effort of parents, students, and faculty to deliver distance learning consistently across all students, a number of factors beyond anyone's control made distance learning more challenging for some families. We have developed a plan for evaluating student performance in the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter that both acknowledges the hard work of students and takes into consideration dynamics that made learning challenging.

Lower School and Middle School students will receive a progress report from Mrs. Tucker on Wednesday, May 20<sup>th</sup> with a letter grade for the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter for each class. Parents and students may choose to keep the letter grade or replace a passing grade with a "P" for passing. If the student and parents decide to replace the letter grade with a "P", they will need to email Mrs. Tucker with this decision by Friday, May 22<sup>nd</sup>. The final report card will reflect the wishes of the parents and student.

Upper School students will have the same option for 4<sup>th</sup> quarter grades along the same timeline; however, Upper School students and parents should email Mr. Custis with their choice. One exception will be honors, AP, and college level classes. Students taking these classes may opt for a "P" rather than a passing letter grade; however, opting for a "P" will mean the student's final grade in the class will not receive the weighting associated with advanced classes. For students electing to take their letter grade for the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter, final grades will be calculated as they have been in the past – 40% 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter, 40% 4<sup>th</sup> quarter, and 20% project-based exam. For students opting for a "P" in the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter, final grades will be calculated differently – 80% 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter and 20% project-based exam.

I will be sharing details about how we will finish the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter and the school year in a Community Meeting at 7:00 on Monday, May 4. Please plan to join this meeting. I will reserve time at the end of the meeting to answer questions. Please see the meeting information below:

Time: May 4, 2020 07:00 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85951632880?pwd=UGFrbkFIRkJKR1loZnA4dW1KdkZHQQT09>

Meeting ID: 859 5163 2880

Password: 4yLKA0

As we wrap up this year, we will begin to focus in more detail on the 2020-2021 school year. The administrative team has already started some preliminary planning for next year; however, this planning will shift into high gear in the coming weeks and include the participation of our incoming Head of School, Chance Reynolds. As part of this planning, we need your feedback about distance learning. To this end, we have partnered with the National Association of Independent Schools (NAIS) on a distance learning parent survey designed to gather your feedback and feedback from independent school parents across the country. We will use this feedback as a guide while making important decisions for next year. Please click on the [Distance Learning Parent Survey](#) link to complete the survey.

Finally, we are closely monitoring the dialogue about schools re-opening in the fall. We are actively engaged in conversations with other independent schools across the Commonwealth and the country and the advocacy groups that represent these schools. As we learn more from the state and federal government, we will harness the collective expertise of all these partners to re-open in a manner that provides the best possible learning environment for our students coupled with the highest consideration for the safety of our students and employees. I will communicate more details about this plan in the weeks and months to come.

Thank you all again for the herculean effort that has gone into finishing this year. Eleanor Roosevelt once said, "You gain strength, courage, and confidence by every experience in which you really stop to look fear in the face. You must do the thing which you think you cannot do." We have been thrust into an environment of "forced innovation", and we have benefitted from this unavoidable experience by overcoming our fears. We will enter the coming year with courage, confidence, and a plan that demonstrates the value of the investment you have made in Fuqua School.

Go Red! Go Black! GO FALCONS!

John Melton

Head of School