



GEORGIA ELEMENTARY & MIDDLE SCHOOL  
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April 02, 2020

Dear Families:

As you are aware, Governor Scott announced on March 26 that students will not be returning to school for in-person instruction for the remainder of the year. This is in response to prevent the continued spread of the highly contagious COVID-19 virus. All students and families have been advised to stay home and practice social distance in order to minimize the possibility of infection.

As a result of Governor Scott's decision for students to engage with remote learning for the remainder of the year, our **Maintenance phase** will be extended through **April 10**. This means we will continue to offer learning opportunities focused on maintaining current skills and our connections with students. We will continue to use the same format to communicate the learning activities that teachers have been sharing with you. It is our hope that students will remain connected to their learning and teachers during this time. Our recommendation is to work within those tasks for about 2 hours a day. During this Maintenance phase, we are not expecting all students to complete all assignments and certainly do not want to add to the stress some of our families may be feeling during this challenging time.

The FWSU administrative team is awaiting updated guidance from the Agency of Education in preparation for our transition to the **Continuity of Learning (aka new learning) phase** starting **April 13**. More info will come as we navigate what this might look like.

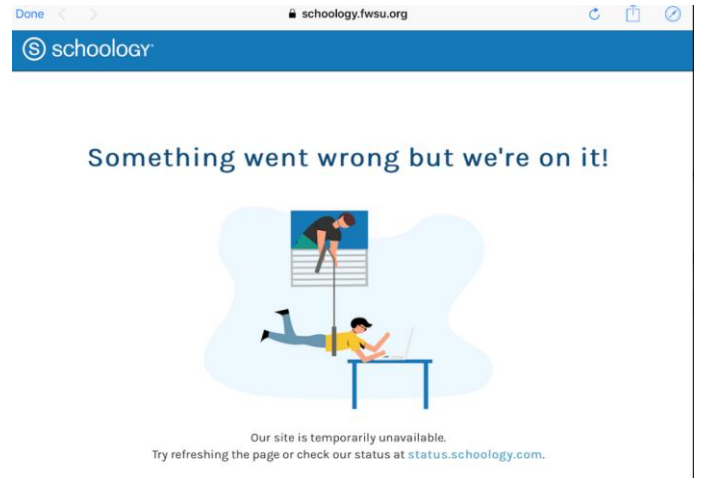
Our priority for students is that they continue to maintain their learning and connection to school staff. During the time when students are not at school, teachers and administration will be working and available to (remotely) support students' learning and maintaining connections using Schoology and See-Saw learning platforms.

#### **Food Service Expanding:**

The USDA recently waived area eligibility requirements which means we will be able to now provide breakfast and lunch for everyone in our community age 18 and under. We are using our Terricel buses to deliver those meals and will be expanding our services starting on April 6th. If you would like to add your family to our delivery list, please complete [this form](#) (click on this link and complete form).

## **Schoology:**

As you may know, access to Schoology is hit and miss. This is not specific to FWSU. It is happening to all Schoology clients as they work to scale up capacity due to a massive increase in demand for remote learning. While we do not have a stated estimated time for a resolution from Schoology, it is a recognized issue on their end and being worked on. FWSU I.T. does not have any means of speeding up the resolution. If you or your students get this screen, the site is at capacity and is down.



When the site does come back up, many students are getting logged out.

Please share the following to help them get logged back in.

### **Using SAFARI or Chrome (web browser):**

1. Type into the address bar at the top: [schoolology.fwsu.org](https://schoolology.fwsu.org)
2. You will be presented with a Google login. Enter in your FWSU email address and password.

### **Using the Schoology app on the iPad.**

1. In the area to search for the school, type in the exact same thing as Safari: [schoolology.fwsu.org](https://schoolology.fwsu.org)
2. From the list of schools, tap on **Franklin West Supervisory Union**
3. Tap "**Log in through your School**"
4. This will pull up the same Google login screen as Safari. Enter in your FWSU email address and password

## **Video Conferencing:**

You should have received information about our impending addition of Video Conferencing to support students. If you did not receive this, please let me know. Beginning on April 13, teachers will be hosting small group discussions using Google Meet. There is no need to download apps or make any changes to student iPads.

For middle grades, we have intentionally set up video conferencing just between teachers and students in order to ensure that this communication tool is used to support students' remote learning needs. Teachers will communicate these video conference times in their week's Remote Learning Template. These video conferences are optional to all students. We hope it is a chance to connect with their teachers and each other and provide whatever assistance they need. Instruction of new content will always be pre recorded to allow students to review that information when they can.

### **WIFI/INTERNET SURVEY COMING**

If you have accessibility issues and are not able to view those videos or your access to the internet/wifi is posing challenges, please communicate with your homeroom teacher. In addition, there will be a brief survey via School Messenger coming your way soon to ask about your access. I hope you can answer the brief phone survey so we know how we can best support your students during this time.

### **WEEKLY PRINCIPAL'S NEWSLETTER**

In an effort to reduce the number of emails parents receive from the school, we are working to streamline our communications. Starting this week, I will be sending a weekly newsletter home to communicate important information. We will also create a page on our website where these communications are stored for easier access. My hope is that this communication will reduce your stress and keep you aware of the great support and work that lies outside of the walls of our school.

I am so grateful for your feedback on our work thus far. This situation we are all finding ourselves in is challenging. Our staff have been tremendous and I want to acknowledge everyone for being flexible and positive during this uncertain time. We will continue to get through this challenging time together. Please do not hesitate to contact me with questions at [jconrad@fwus.org](mailto:jconrad@fwus.org).

Respectfully,  
Julie Conrad  
Middle School Principal