



Dear FCFT members,

As many may know, Covid-19 is rapidly spreading across the country and information seems to be changing quickly. Today you should have received an email from Dr. Brabrand that Monday, March 16th will be a student holiday and professional development/training day for school staff. **Schools are not currently closing.** This day is to help prepare our district in the event the need arises to close our schools. School-based employees will report to school and receive additional information on planning/training for remote learning. All central office staff and hourly employees will report to work as normal. Transportation and food service employees will receive further guidance on where and when to report.

Over past two days I have attended meetings and spoken with the district leaders as they develop their plan of action. We are all entering uncharted territory and it's important to keep this in mind as this plan unfolds.

I have heard from several members about their concerns involving how to help our students be successful with distance learning, the challenges faced when direct instruction is not accessible, how will students who do not have access to regular meals outside of school access those necessary meals, how will our ELL and special needs students receive the services they need and how will these potential closures impact the remainder of the school year. At this time, we do not have clear answers to many of these questions, but we are working with the district to come up with real solutions for our members, our students and our community.

I would like to hear directly from you about ideas and suggestions on how to support our students and colleagues during this uncertain time. **We understand that many of you may be frightened or confused at the moment. However, we're committed to supplying you with the information that you need to protect yourself and your loved ones.** We encourage you to wash your hands, to avoid touching your face, and to stay home if you feel ill and experience any respiratory symptoms.

We thank you for your patience and support as we continue to address the multi-faceted challenges related to planning for Coronavirus (COVID-19).

As this situation continues to evolve and we will keep you updated. Updates can be found on:

www.fcft.org/coronavirus

[https://www.fcps.edu/news/coronavirus-update.](https://www.fcps.edu/news/coronavirus-update)

Thank you for your support and dedication to our FCPS families.

In unity,

Tina Williams

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