Trailblazer Times

August 27, 2021

Dear Virtual Academy Families,

Week 3 of school has certainly been exciting! We can't be more proud of how our students handled our Monday morning internet connection issues. Even when teachers had trouble connecting with classes, many of our students stayed on and waited for their teachers to return. We even discovered that some students may be on the path to becoming future teachers themselves!

Here are some important announcements for the week:

FEEDBACK FORM
Please complete this form to let us know how we are doing.
How are we doing?

SOLS FOR VIRTUAL ACADEMY STUDENTS--ACTION REQUIRED

Students in Lynchburg City Schools will be assessed using the Virginia Standards of Learning (SOL) Growth Assessments this fall as per new legislation that was recently passed. The SOLs serve as one method to measure mastery of both content and skills outlined by the Virginia Standards of Learning for each grade level. These assessments provide information concerning student achievement to the state. More importantly, SOLs provide information to the student, parent, school, and division to best plan instruction in the future.

These assessments will only be offered in Math and Reading for grade 3 through 8 content that students were enrolled in the previous year. High school level content or EOC (end of course) content will not be assessed at this time.

Please click on the link below for more details, including:

- The grade levels for which assessments will be given
- A schedule that explains when and where your student would take the test
- How to request transportation
- The purpose of the test

Fall 2021 Growth Assessment Communication

K-3 ASSESSMENTS
Each year, students in grades K-3 are assessed using the PALS (Phonological Awareness Literacy Screening). This assessment is designed to identify students' specific strengths and weaknesses in reading and writing as well as monitor student progress. The PALS results help us to determine individual learning goals, plan classroom instruction, and identify children who need additional literacy support.

You will receive a copy of your child's PALS Student Score Summary following each fall, midyear, and spring testing window. Please take time to review your child's scores and contact your child's teacher if you have questions or need help interpreting the data.

CHROMEBOOK INSURANCE
In the event that an LCS-issued device is lost, damaged, or stolen, families are responsible for the cost of the repairs or to replace the device. Families can purchase device insurance to help reduce these potential costs for $20.If you are interested in purchasing Chromebook Insurance for your student, you may do so through [MySchoolBucks](#).

SCHOOL COUNSELOR ZOOM SESSIONS
Mrs. Edmondson, our Virtual Academy School Counselor, has set up zoom sessions to provide some tips to help your students be successful online students.
Elementary School Families
Kristen Edmondson is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.
Topic: Tips for Elementary School Parents
Time: Aug 31, 2021 06:00 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)
Join Zoom Meeting
https://zoom.us/j/98726259335?pwd=WitzWDQ1UUNqbWt0b08rdVphK0tEZz09
Meeting ID: 987 2625 9335
Passcode: gz09tE
Middle School families
Kristen Edmondson is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.
Topic: Tips for Middle Parents
Time: Aug 31, 2021 07:15 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)
Join Zoom Meeting
https://zoom.us/j/93244079391?pwd=a1VOU3VlTCtvdVJ1UTNiN3YxcE9jdz09
Meeting ID: 932 4407 9391
Passcode: eCxMU1

SEPTEMBER IS "STUMP THE TEACHER" MONTH!
Parents and guardians, we invite you to encourage your students to participate in our "Stump the Teacher" competition! Students will submit their questions using our ["Stump the Teacher Form,"](#) and we will livestream Virtual Academy teachers answering those submitted questions. Questions must have an objective, singular answer. For example, "what is the abbreviation for magnesium?" or "what is the capital of Libya?"