Welcome Letter Blended Econ/PF-Summer 2013

Welcome to Fairfax County Public Schools’ Online Learning environment, the Online Campus. We want to assure you that every student will receive a high quality education online, because all FCPS online courses are in alignment with the Fairfax County Public School’s Program of Studies and the Commonwealth of Virginia’s Standards of Learning.

Every student who enrolls in an online course must first complete an Online Technology Prerequisite Course. Starting June 10, 2013, this two-hour technology primer is available through the FCPS 24/7 application (Blackboard). Students will be enrolled within 24 hours of the registration receipt. This course will help identify any technical difficulties with your computer setup. Remember that smart-phones and tablets, like an iPad, are not computers and will not run all applications necessary for summer school. For detailed instructions on accessing the tech course, see page 2 of this welcome letter. This Technology Prerequisite Course must be completed before class starts by July 7, 2013. Teachers will start contacting students two days prior to the first day of class by email and phone.

Students will have a mandatory orientation at 8:00 am of the first day of class with their teacher at their designated site location for Economics/Personal Finance. Students will also need to attend their site location on July 22 for midterm exams, August 5 for final exams and August 6 for WISE certification exams (8am for all). For additional critical dates for your summer planning, look at the Online Summer Calendar.

In addition to the online course, your teacher will be at their site school every Monday and Thursday from 8am-12 noon for additional assistance if needed. Students are welcome to come in to get individual help. We do ask the students to let the teacher know when they are coming to school.

If you are the parent and have not watched the parent-orientation, you can click here to watch the 3½ minute presentation.

Here are a few tips to help you become a successful summer online student:

1. Do the online technology course and create a work folder on your computer where all the assignments are kept. Make sure your microphone and speakers are in working order.

2. Schedule the same time every day to work in the online course. When students do not see their teacher, they tend to forget about the course. On average students need to schedule about 7 ½ hours every day for their summer school course. Remember one day of summer school is equal to 8 days during the regular school year.

3. Make sure you receive the teacher’s welcome email that is sent to you just before class starts. Check you inbox and junk mail folder if you don’t see it. Email the online campus if you don’t see the teacher’s welcome email before the start of class.

4. Make sure the student has a valid picture ID for all testing situations.

5. Schedule to attend your face-to-face mid-term and final exams on July 22th and August 5th. WISE certification exams will be August 6th. These exams are mandatory face-to-face meetings that you must attend.
Again, welcome to the Online Campus. Please do not hesitate to contact the Online Campus with any questions regarding the Online Technology Prerequisite Course or the Subject Course at onlinecampus@fcps.edu.

Sincerely,

Michael Kowalski
Online Campus Administrator

---

**To get started in the Online Technology Prerequisite Course in Blackboard, follow these directions.**

1. Open your browser on your computer (IE or Firefox)
   Type in this URL: [http://fcps.blackboard.com](http://fcps.blackboard.com) (Notice NO www)
2. This Blackboard log-in screen should appear (see image below).

   ![Blackboard Log-in Screen](image)

3. Your student ID number is your **username**. Your password will be the same as you used during the regular school year. If you forgot your password, click the Forgot Your Password link which will send directions to your email account on how to reset your password.

**Now it is time to access your Online Technology Prerequisite Course.**

4. Click on the red Tab “My FCPS” (see below) and choose Online Technology Prerequisite Course.

   ![My FCPS Tab](image)

5. Read the announcements and get started!

If you have technical difficulties with your computer while taking this course, the Presidium Help Desk provides 24-HOUR technical help/assistance.

Call Presidium (1-866-434-8880) if you have computer difficulties with any of your Online Courses. Please do not share the technical support number with anyone else; it is only for you to use to get help for this course.

Please e-mail to onlinecampus@fcps.edu if you have difficulties.

Sincerely,

The OC Technology Teachers