Welcome Letter Summer 2012

Welcome to Fairfax County Public Schools’ Online Learning environment, the Online Campus. We are excited that you have chosen this option. 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 11, 2012, this two-hour technology primer is available through a training server in Blackboard after 24 hours of the registration receipt. We actually suggest doing it as soon as possible to identify any technical difficulties with your computer setup. Remember that smartphones 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—For PE and Honors Geometry students it must be finished prior to July 1 and for everyone else it must be done by July 6, 2012. Teachers will start contacting students two days prior to the first day of class by email and phone.

Students will have a mandatory orientation the morning of the first day of class with their subject teacher through Blackboard Collaborate, our virtual classroom except for PE students who will meet face to face for a physical fitness assessment (Virginia wellness testing). For additional critical dates for your summer planning, look at the FCPS summer website.

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. 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.
2. Make sure you receive the teacher’s welcome email that is sent to you just before class starts. Check your 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.
3. Do the online technology course and create a work folder on your computer where all the assignments are kept. After all, there are no binders to get lost.
4. Make a list of questions to ask your teacher when you attend the orientation.
5. Schedule to attend your mid-term and final exams on July 23rd and August 6th (Locations to be determined). End-of-course SOL exams will be August 7th. English 11 writing SOL will be July 17th-18th. These are mandatory face-to-face exam times that you must meet.

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)
2. Type in this URL: **http://fcps9-stg.blackboard.com** (Notice NO www)
3. This Blackboard log-in screen should appear (see image below).

![Login Screen](image)

4. Your student ID number is your **username** and **password**.

5. Type in your **new password** if prompted (the screen should appear as below); click **Submit**

![Change Password](image)

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

6. Click on the red Tab "My FCPS" (see below) and choose Online Technology Prerequisite Course.

![My FCPS](image)

7. 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