

Dear Parents/Guardians:

In an ongoing effort to enhance the educational process, Fairfax County Public Schools (FCPS) uses an e-learning communication tool, FCPS 24-7 Learning – commonly known as Blackboard – which is an online resource that allows FCPS to extend learning beyond the traditional school day and beyond school facilities. This program allows a greater level of communication between school and home, strengthening the partnership between teachers, parents, and students.

Over the past few years, thousands of teachers used FCPS 24-7 Learning to provide access to homework and classroom information, class calendars, links to valuable enrichment activities, and much more. Over the summer our system upgraded to the newest version of Blackboard. This upgrade has provided users several new features that can enhance learning.

In order for you and your child to utilize this tool, you must share a username and password. When you first log in, the username and password will be the same – the student ID number. To ensure student confidentiality and privacy, the password must be changed after initial login. We strongly recommend that you and your child log in and select a new password together – this will allow you access to the information from any computer with internet access: work, school, or home. It is also important that you communicate with each other so that if one of you changes the password, that information is shared. If this password is forgotten, your student needs to contact his or her teacher to have the password reset.

Please take some time to log into the tool at <http://fcps.blackboard.com> using the shared username and password and explore the available resources as well as become familiar with the way the site is laid out.

We appreciate your support and involvement with this exciting 21<sup>st</sup> century project. We hope you find this to be a valuable tool in your child's education.