

Revised guidelines for student participation in virtual learning

Parents,

The purpose of this letter is to share revised expectations for student participation during remote (online) learning. Over the course of this year, teachers are finding fewer students having their camera on in any part of live instruction. Teachers are sharing this is having a negative impact on these students' engagement in learning and academic progress.

Whether learning remotely or face-to-face, students having the ability to build relationships with one another and their teacher(s) is an essential part of teaching and learning. It's also critical for teachers to have the ability to see their students' faces in order to gauge understanding, make informal assessments of progress and engagement, and encourage or redirect students just as they would in a traditional classroom setting.

Recognizing student individual differences, the Department of Technology is working on a solution for students to be able to either blur their background or use a virtual background when their camera is activated on their Chromebooks for video conferencing via Zoom or Google Meets. In the meantime, parents are encouraged to assist their children with identifying a suitable location in their home when engaging in synchronous instruction.

To maintain the security of the virtual environment, and to promote positive relationships between teachers and students, VBCPS is making the following adjustments to remote learning practices and expectations:

- Students must use their real name (assigned in VUE) as their name in ZOOM and Google Meets.
- Starting **Tuesday, November 4**, student cameras must be turned on at the beginning of class for teachers to verify attendance. This will be the responsibility of each student.
- Students should leave cameras on during live instruction and group work. Cameras may be turned off during independent work.
- If a student is uncomfortable, he/she may "hide" their own picture using this option on either platform which still allows for the teacher to see the student.

If you wish to discuss this requirement, please contact your child's school administration.