August 21, 2020

Dear SCPS Families and Staff,

We are now just days away from our students’ virtual return to school. This year, more than ever, parents are a critical part of our learning community, and I want to encourage each parent and/or guardian’s involvement in supporting their student’s success in this virtual learning environment. I also recognize that many families had to make great sacrifices when we decided to move to a virtual learning environment for the safety of our students, staff, and visitors. I thank all of you for being terrific partners as we work through this pandemic virus and hopefully soon, we can return to a more “normal” learning environment.

By 6 p.m. this evening, every school will have hosted its Town Hall meeting. If you missed the meeting, you will find a recording on your individual school’s website. The meetings are informative and provide you with the needed building-level information for your student.

This afternoon, parents who do not yet have a ParentVue account will receive an email with instructions to connect to their student in our information system. It is important to create and login regularly to a ParentVue account. This tool, available as a website and through the ParentVue mobile app, connects parents and guardians to student schedules, teachers, assignments, report cards, and IEP progress goal reports. If you have an account and cannot remember your login information, please contact your school directly for assistance.

Student schedules will be available by Monday, August 24th. As part of your preparation, I encourage you to continue visiting the SCPS Family and Student Canvas Resources. Here you and your children will find helpful information and videos describing how to access Canvas courses, use Chromebooks, and access other resources.

Starting Monday, August 24th, Stafford County Public Schools (SCPS) will provide parents and students technology assistance directly from our technicians by email or phone call, Monday-Friday, from 7:30 a.m. to 7:30 p.m. To access this service by email, send the student’s name, school attending, a contact email address or phone number, and a short description of the technical issue to helpdesk@staffordschools.net. You may also leave a message at 571.699.0720 and a technician will return your call on the same or next school day.

On Wednesday, August 26th, at 6:30 p.m. we will host the next virtual Town Hall meeting regarding our Health Mitigation Strategies. I welcome you to submit your questions for the Town Hall to scpscommunications@staffordschools.net no later than noon on Tuesday, August 25, 2020.

I am inviting the community to participate in our Equity, Diversity, and Opportunity Committee (EDOC). This committee acts as an advisory arm to the SCPS Office of Equity and Accountability to ensure equitable practices prevail in SCPS, and that all students and staff are valued and affirmed. The support of the EDOC and its recommendations will provide important information for the decision-making process regarding equity and equitable services for our school division. Please complete this application form by Friday, September 4th, if you are interested in participating in the 2020-2021 committee. Virtual meetings will be held on the second Monday of every month from 6:30-8:30 p.m. A virtual orientation meeting will be held on September 24, at 6:30 p.m. for citizens who are selected to participate in this important committee.

Inspire • Empower • Excel
On August 31st, meals will be available for all SCPS students. All students are encouraged to participate in the meal service program, whether they are eligible for free or reduced, or full price. Meals will be offered curbside at select schools and for pickup at community bus distribution sites. On Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays, meal service will take place from 10:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. SCPS will offer hot lunch and breakfast “to go” at all curbside school sites and “Heat & Serve” meals at community bus distributions sites.

In addition, we are offering an evening meal service that will take place on Mondays and Wednesdays from 5 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. at select school sites. The meals will consist of “Heat & Serve” breakfast and lunch items. Please visit the [SCPS website](https://www.scps.k12.va.us) for more details and a list of participating meal sites. Visit [staffordschools.nutrislice.com](https://staffordschools.nutrislice.com) to see the latest student menus.

As always, I want to thank all of you for your cooperation and understanding as we journey together to redesign our school system as we try our best to meet two important goals: 1) Safety for all and 2) Continuity of learning. I am confident that when we start school on August 31st you will recognize the hard and important work of our staff. I am also realistic that as the days and weeks move forward, we will all continue to improve as we learn what is successful and what needs to be modified. Your patience and understanding will go a long way in supporting our efforts and commitment to do what is necessary to meet your child’s learning needs in this COVID-19 pandemic environment. We have encouraged our teachers, principals, and support staff to maintain ongoing communication with parents as this would be the correct time to share ideas, information, and feedback to help us improve. Please do not hesitate to communicate to your child’s teacher(s) and principal if you want more information, have a concern, and even share a compliment.

Please have a great weekend and I again remind all of us to follow the recommended health guidelines so together we can reduce the impact of the COVID-19 virus in the Stafford community.

Sincerely,

Scott R. Kizner, Ph.D.
Superintendent