April 9, 2020

Dear SCPS Families and Staff,

As a team, we are now fully committed to remote learning activities. By utilizing Google virtual classrooms, high quality, remote learning is underway at all levels. Students are engrossed in activities and teachers are providing feedback. I want to thank our families for welcoming teachers into your homes and continuing to support the important student-teacher connection. I thank our teachers who are providing collaborative, quality remote instruction through video, email, and letters to your families. Suggested schedules and routines are available on our website. These are not required, but are provided for those looking for a more structured learning environment.

Stafford County Public Schools (SCPS) has provided more than 5,300 Chromebooks to our families. To aid in accessing At-Home Learning Resources, the division is now offering public WiFi available in all our school parking lots. Look for lime green WiFi signs to find the designated WiFi parking area and please, stay in your car.

In addition to the At-Home Learning resources available at our schools, the Virginia Department of Education (VDOE) collaborated with Blue Ridge PBS, VPM, WETA and WHRO Public Media to create educational television content for students in grades K-10 who are unable to access other distance learning options. Beginning Monday, April 13, 2020 “VA TV Classroom” will air instructional content Monday through Friday from 1-3 p.m. This may provide another supplemental education tool.

Final Grade Calculation

- For X/Y and year-long courses, Semester 1 counts for 67% of the final grade and Quarter 3 (Q3) counts for 33% of the final grade. Quarter 3 ended on March 12, 2020.
- For spring 4x4 courses, the final grade is the first-semester grade. Please note that the first semester for 4x4 spring courses ended on March 12, 2020.
- Students and parents/guardians are strongly encouraged to view their grade status for Q3 (X/Y year-long) or 1st semester (4X4 spring) posted in ParentVue on April 6, 2020 and select an option found under the Recovery Opportunity for All High School Credit Bearing Courses on the SCPS website.
- Students enrolled in grades 7-12 will have the opportunity to improve on targeted skills associated with their Individualized Education Plan (IEP). Families, please contact your child’s building level special education designee or your child's case manager for specific information on how to improve on targeted skills associated with your child's IEP.
- Year-end, final grades will be posted in ParentVue by June 5, 2020.
Many of you have questions regarding our high school graduation ceremonies. I will address this at next week’s school board meeting on Tuesday, April 14, 2020. As I value the school experience at all levels, we are also looking at ways to honor rising sixth and ninth grade students, as well as other celebratory activities and experiences, however, nothing will be decided until we receive further guidance from Governor Northam and VDOE.

There have been questions regarding kindergarten and middle school registration for the 2020-2021 school year. Our administrative team is currently developing a process that facilitates the current limitations of meeting face-to-face. We will share the plan as soon as it is finalized. As a reminder, Friday, April 10, and Monday, April 13, 2020 are Stafford County Public School holidays. As such, the Grab and Go meal distribution schedule is adjusted. Meal deliveries will not take place on Friday, April 10, or Monday, April 13, 2020. Instead, meals are available on Tuesday, April 14, Wednesday, April 15, and Friday, April 17, 2020.

SCPS has provided more than 46,000 meals in our first two weeks of Grab and Go meal distribution. I am often asked by the community how they can assist. Please consider making a donation to one of the local food banks. I offer this small notion as a way to provide an immense opportunity to support our community.

SCPS remains committed to the social-emotional and physical health of all students. Any student, caregiver, or staff member in need of social-emotional support during these unparalleled and challenging times should visit the SCPS website.

As always, I thank all of you for your cooperation, and I wish everyone a restful and healthy weekend. Together, we are #SCPSStrong.

Sincerely,

Scott R. Kizner, Ph.D.
Superintendent