May 21, 2020

Dear SCPS Families and Staff,

I hope everyone is looking forward to a long weekend. As a reminder, Stafford County Public Schools (SCPS) is closed tomorrow and Monday, May 25, 2020. The Grab and Go meal distribution plan will take place Tuesday, May 26, Wednesday, May 27, and Friday, May 29, 2020.

We look forward to celebrating the accomplishments of our seniors. We are still planning for the Class of 2020 commencement on Saturday, August 1, 2020. Upon guidance we anticipate to receive from Governor Northam in June, SCPS will determine whether our graduation ceremony is live (modified or traditional) or virtual, and then confirm the date for a virtual ceremony if that option is required. If your student is joining the military, or has a unique or unavoidable circumstance that prevents him or her from participating in this ceremony, please contact your school principal for other considerations.

I believe that as a learning community, all voices are important. As such, SCPS has created a parent survey to collect feedback on your experiences with remote learning. I encourage you to complete this survey no later than Thursday, May 28, 2020. The survey should take no more than five minutes of your time, and is an important tool as we consider how to best support our students moving forward. Staff will receive a survey in the near future to provide their feedback.

The Return to School Recovery Taskforce is meeting regularly. The taskforce will present me with a draft report during the week of June 8th. I again want to thank all of the educators, parents, and community members who are helping us plan for the opening of the 2020-2021 school year. We expect within the next few weeks to have further guidance from Governor Northam and the Virginia Department of Education to help us plan accordingly.

Registration remains open for our high school initial credit and credit recovery summer learning programs. In addition, registration is still open for students enrolled this year in Math 6 Extended and Math 7 Extended courses who want to continue the learning missed from 4th quarter. Additional student learning opportunities are forthcoming as we move into summer break. Please check the summer learning web page weekly for more At-Home and summer learning opportunities.

Next week, I am providing limited access to our buildings so that students may retrieve their belongings. Each school principal will provide communication detailing the timeline, social distancing, and health practices families and students will need to follow when retrieving their personal items.

Inspire ● Empower ● Excel
I truly believe that SCPS educators are among the best in the nation. Recently, three of our distinguished staff were awarded significant honors in the areas of teaching excellence and leadership. Mrs. Susan Weiderhold, an Assistant Principal at Dixon-Smith Middle School, is one of only 10 educators nationwide to earn a Rebecca Burnette DuFour Scholarship. This award, now in its second year, celebrates and supports women educators who demonstrate exceptional leadership in their school communities.

The Washington Post Educational Foundation has long honored the best educators in the local area, recognizing quality education is essential to the health and vitality of the community through the presentation of Teacher and Principal of the Year awards. This year’s finalists included Mrs. Rebecca Wardlow (Winding Creek Elementary School) as the SCPS Principal of the Year, and Mrs. Kimberly Cannon (Stafford Middle School) as the SCPS Teacher of the Year.

Next week is our last five days of the 2019-2020 school year. Though I will provide my final weekly communication on Friday, May 29, 2020, I will continue to update parents and staff on important issues as they are necessary. Weekly communications will begin again starting July 20, 2020.

I wish everyone a relaxing and healthy Memorial Day weekend as we honor the men and women who sacrificed all while serving in the U.S. military.

Sincerely,

Scott R. Kizner, Ph.D.
Superintendent