August 28, 2020

Dear SCPS Families and Staff,

On Monday, we will open our virtual doors to approximately 30,000 children for the 2020-2021 school year. Though the return will look differently than it ever has, the joy and excitement remain the same. In preparation for the first day of school on Monday, please watch this Student Canvas Overview video, which provides students with instructions for the login process. Younger children should watch this age appropriate video for Canvas support. I also encourage you to review these Student and Parent Expectations for Virtual Learning, which will be reviewed with your students in the first two weeks of school.

Every school year the first week or so often requires some minor adjustments based on many unique and sometimes unforeseen circumstances. I am confident that this school year will be no different and the unique circumstances most likely will look somewhat different than in the past. Together we will address and resolve whatever changes are required. I am confident that as the school year progresses, we will all gain greater confidence in our new teaching and learning environment. As a parent told me very recently, we will all need high levels of patience, cooperation, and humor to help make this a successful experience for all.

SCPS will be closed on Friday, September 4th and Monday, September 7th. To ensure our students are getting off on their best feet, our Middle and High School X/Y learning day schedule is adjusted for the next two weeks. Beginning September 14th, we will return to the regular X/Y day rotation for middle and high school students.

<table>
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<tr>
<th>X Days</th>
<th>Y Days</th>
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<td>August 31</td>
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This closure also affects our meal service distribution. Meals are not available on September 4th or 7th. Instead, school curbside pickup and bus deliveries will take place as follows for the next two weeks:
- Monday, August 31, 2020;
- Wednesday, September 2, 2020;
- Tuesday, September 8;
- Wednesday, September 9; and
- Friday, September 11, 2020.

Please note that the above-mentioned schedule does not apply to exempted category students, who will be served daily while at the school buildings.
As a reminder, there are several tools available to our families for assistance with technology and translation this school year:

**Technology Assistance Helpdesk**
- Receive technology assistance directly from our technicians by email or phone call, Monday-Friday, from 7:30 a.m. to 7:30 p.m.
- Email helpdesk@staffordschools.net or call 571.699.0720.
- Send the student’s name, school attending, a contact email address or phone number, and a short description of the technical issue.
- A technician will return your call on the same or next school day.

**SCPS Family and Student Canvas Resources**
Created by the SCPS instructional team, this online resource provides an overview specifically of Canvas, our learning management system, as well as helpful tips and videos for creating accounts, navigating the system and how it is used, as well as a list of Frequently Asked Questions.

**SCPS Family Outreach Training Portal**
This online tool provides support for Chromebook use, digital resources, and an online library, as well as assistance with logging into and creating a ParentVue account.

**Family Resource Access Line**
This free communication tool helps provide equitable access to SCPS resources. Families may leave a message for translators in seven native languages: Arabic, Dari, Farsi, French, Pashto, Spanish, and Urdu. Translators will return your call in 2 business days. To access this service, please call (571) 492-9270.

**In the coming months we will enter the flu season.** As an additional measure to ensure we remain healthy, we strongly encourage you to discuss with your healthcare provider the feasibility of your children receiving a flu shot.

As we open our virtual doors, I will continue to send a letter on September 11th and 25th, and then on an as-needed basis. I encourage you to directly communicate with your child’s teacher and principals if you have questions or concerns. Our staff is fully aware of the importance of ongoing communication with students and parents and if you feel that the communication can be improved, please let your child’s teacher(s) and/or principal know.

I again thank all of you for being terrific partners as we embark on a new journey together. Please have a great and safe weekend and I wish all of you a fantastic 2020-2021 school year.

Sincerely,

Scott R. Kizner, Ph.D.
Superintendent