



Office of the Superintendent

September 11, 2020

Dear SCPS Families and Staff,

I am tremendously proud of all our students and staff as we have embraced virtual learning. I do understand some children are experiencing difficulty. We will continue to evaluate what is working and where we are able to make improvements. As you continue working and learning in the online classroom, please share your experiences and suggestions by email to your child's principal.

Many parents have asked about observer codes in Canvas. [Please continue to use ParentVue to monitor your student's progress](#) while we further evaluate the observer option in Canvas and the potential impact on student privacy.

[It is our goal to follow the school board approved plan and start transitioning students back accordingly.](#) We will continue to have a 100% virtual option for instruction at all levels. Our elementary schools are excited to propose a pilot program to invite all kindergarten through second grade students back into their classrooms. I will continue to monitor health data, and will discuss in greater detail this pilot program at the September 22nd School Board meeting. The pilot program is targeted to begin October 6th.

The pilot program will follow the current A-B hybrid schedule, with two days of face-to-face synchronous learning and three days of asynchronous learning. We look forward to the opportunity to bring our youngest students back if the conditions warrant it. Schools will begin reaching out to parents to determine which students will be transitioning back to the school building.

We continue to grow as a division, and there are two important committees that will help us make informed decisions. The Parent Advisory Committee will have its first meeting on October 8th. Each school has two representatives and their names will be listed on our website. This is another opportunity to provide me feedback or offer suggestions. I am happy with the overwhelming response to our invitation to join the Equity, Diversity and Opportunity Committee. Members will be notified of their acceptance on Friday, September 18.

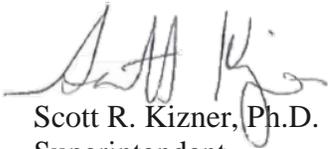
As a reminder, the federal government has approved a waiver allowing all students to receive meals at no charge through December 31, 2020. Nutritious meals are available for pick up at more than 50 school and community distribution sites. School Nutrition offers early and late evening meal service to accommodate working families. For more information about when and where SCPS students may receive meals, [please visit the Nutrition Services page on our website.](#)

The school division, in partnership with Stafford County Fire and Rescue, is again participating in Operation Warm to provide students in need with warm winter coats. [To make a donation, please visit our Operation Warm webpage.](#) If your child needs a coat this winter, please contact your child's guidance counselor for assistance.

I want to again thank the students, staff and parents for the first two weeks of school. I do acknowledge we have had issues to resolve since we started, and I appreciate the positive feedback and the suggestions for improvement. We also realize virtual learning is different from on-site instruction and for some students, the virtual setting is very challenging. It is important that you continue communicating with your child's teacher and/or principal if you are having concerns with his or her learning. I want to remind everyone that we have at every level the option to attend one of our schools if you are not getting the internet connectivity you need to successfully complete the instruction. We ask that you contact your principal as soon as possible so we can arrange for the needed accommodations.

Please have a very good weekend and please continue to follow all safety guidelines as the COVID-19 virus continues to remain a health risk that we need to take seriously.

Sincerely,



Scott R. Kizner, Ph.D.
Superintendent