



**St. Mary's County Public Schools
Central Administration**

Office of the Superintendent
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Dr. J. Scott Smith
Superintendent

May 14, 2021

Dear SMCPs Families:

St. Mary's County Public Schools (SMCPs) will be open for in-person instruction for five days of instruction each week, for 180 school days, for the 2021-2022 school year. SMCPs is also opening a Virtual Pathway program for students in grades 3-12 who wish to remain virtual or have other needs requiring a virtual learning experience. This program is being planned for implementation using pending grant funds through the ESSER III program, which was presented at the [May 12, 2021, Board of Education meeting](#).

The SMCPs Virtual program will offer courses for grades 3-12. This online learning opportunity will utilize Schoology as the base platform, while incorporating high-engagement strategies and synchronous sessions using video conferencing. Teachers will be instructing virtually, but will be on-site at an SMCPs location, which may provide for some in-person opportunities such as tutoring, additional hands-on experiences, as appropriate during the school year. Additionally, students and teachers will continue to have access to counseling, sports, performing arts, and clubs at their home school. All local, state, and federally required assessments and supports will be given.

Students who enroll in this program will enroll for the school year and have opportunities to either continue virtual or enroll in traditional in-person instruction each year. As this program is conducted through a virtual learning environment, transportation is not provided for any activities.

If your family is interested in the virtual learning program for the 2021-2022 school year, please complete [THIS FORM](#) or at bit.ly/SMCPs2022virtual. If you are a family with multiple children, you can fill this out for all students you'd like to be virtual. You don't have to submit a separate form for each family member.

As we return to a traditional 180-day school year, we are looking forward to seeing our students in person. We also hope this virtual learning pathway offers an option for students for whom the virtual learning suits their instructional needs.

Sincerely,

Maureen Montgomery, Ed.D.
Deputy Superintendent