

April 1, 2020

Dear Southwestern Families,

First, thanks to each and every one of you for being a great partner in educating our children. This has been a very difficult time for our school, community, and nation. Your continued support is appreciated.

New York schools were closed the week of March 16, 2020 for an extended period. Schools have been charged with three tasks as an essential entity; continuity of instruction, meals for students, and coordination of daycare. I will try to explain each area to all of you.

- 1) Continuity of Learning – Our number one mission has remained the education of our children. Overnight, we all had to rethink teaching and provide learning for our students that included all of you as a primary resource for our/your children.

This shift created new avenues of learning and new challenges coupled with unanswered questions (grades, accountability, etc.). As we navigate through this together, it is imperative that your child is actively engaged in learning. While there are many unknowns for all of us, I do know that eventually we will go back to school and resume learning. Our hope is to maintain a level of learning to advance forward to the next grade and/or next course.

I have been asked about the 180-day waiver given by the state. The waiver is complicated, but teaching our children has not been waived. This is new for all of us and we appreciate your patience, participation, and involved parenting.

- 2) Meals – We continue to provide daily meals, including breakfast and lunch, to any family that requests them. These meals are free of charge and we are providing over 500 meals daily. If you are in need of meals for your children, please call 484-6815 to be added to our list.
- 3) Daycare – The district is responsible to coordinate and provide daycare, if needed, to first responders and essential workers. Please fill out our survey online and the district will contact you. (www.swcsk12.org/coronavirus)

I have witnessed firsthand the countless hours that you have devoted to your child's learning. I always thought "Trojan Tough" meant that we were bigger and stronger. However, I now understand it means so much more. It's being resilient, compassionate, caring, and more than ever committed to getting through this together.

We will be faced as a community with neighbors, friends, and family who endure COVID-19. It is inevitable. Be caring and kind to those in a time of great need.

From the bottom of my heart, be well and remain **Trojan Tough!**

Maureen Donahue – "Mrs. D."
Superintendent



Southwestern Central School District

Information for Parents: Remote Learning

Please see the second page for grade-level information

Goals for Learning During Extended Closure:

- Maintaining positive relationships and supporting social-emotional needs is our priority
- Courses will review content and focus on most important standards/concepts
- Teachers will work to sustain student-parent-teacher relationships

Expectations for Learning During Extended Closure:

- *Students should maintain academic habits.* This includes participating in online learning, for older students it includes checking emails and responding to teachers
- Students are encouraged to complete as much academic work as possible
- *Approximate* time guidelines: 20-30 minutes per day, per course (some exceptions, such as Advanced Placement courses)

We are here to help you:

- For technical support: email swcstech@swcsk12.org; or call 716-484-6806
- For breakfast/lunch meal delivery: call 716-484-6800
- Please visit our website for Coronavirus Updates:
<https://www.swcsk12.org/domain/286>
- If you need help, please contact your school's main office for assistance – we are checking voicemails daily

Grade	Task Types	Expectations
UPK - 2	Instructional Packets, Online Resources, Independent Reading, Zoom Class Meetings	60-80 minutes per week Attend classroom Zoom meetings Complete assigned classwork
3-5	Instructional Packets, Online Resources, Independent Reading, Zoom Class Meetings	80-100 minutes per week Attend classroom Zoom meetings Complete assigned classwork
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The 2nd trimester ended March 20th. Information regarding 2nd trimester report cards will be forthcoming Elementary teachers will not be assessing each assignment; however, students are strongly encouraged to complete as much classwork as possible to maintain current levels and further their progress toward grade level expectations 		
6-8	Instructional Packets, Online Resources, One Note Assignments, Office 365, Email, Zoom Class Meetings	Student engagement is required in all classes. Students need to check for assignments daily. Students need to prioritize and be responsible for own learning.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Grades 6 – 8 third quarter grading period will be 4/3/20 as planned. Teachers will be flexible when computing grades, taking effort and participation into consideration during this online transitional period. Examples of demonstrating effort and participation include using email, checking for and completing assignments and engaging during Zoom meetings. Fourth quarter grades will be based on effort and participation until we return to normal school sessions. This will be done through progress monitoring. 		
9-12	Check your email daily Office365 Instructional Packets Zoom class meetings Online Resources	Check your email daily Stay engaged Stay Healthy Be Responsible for your learning experience “Do the Right Thing”
11-12 CTE (Vocational) Students	Vocational students work distributed via BOCES	Information/instruction will be distributed from CTE instructor
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Grades 9-12 - 3rd quarter ends on April 3, 2020. Please complete all work. We are not penalizing for any work that has been turned in after the due date. Teachers will observe flexibility in the grading process. Students enrolled in AP courses can expect the AP exams will be administered according to information from The College Board 		
<p>We Support ALL Learning Activities families wish to do at home!</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Get outside as much as possible <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cook together, do chores together, talk about family history Exercise – indoor or outdoor – is so valuable, especially in times of stress 		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> If you are interested in participating in an enrichment project, please contact your school’s librarian. ES – Cody Whitton cwhitton@swcsk12.org; MS- Mary Zdrojewski mzdrojewski@swcsk12.org; HS – Shannon Wright swright@swcsk12.org 		



Dear Southwestern CSD Community,

We are fully devoted in providing the best possible academic, social, and emotional support to our students. The last 2 weeks have been unprecedented and created challenges that we as a school community must face and work as a team to overcome. The challenges of providing food to students, moving instruction to on-line learning, providing childcare to first responders, and adding technical support has been daunting, but we have rallied, and we will be proactive in eliminating the spread of the coronavirus.

Our first priority is student health and safety. We all need to be vigilant in “Doing the Five” to help stop the spread of coronavirus:

- Wash your hands often
- Cough/Sneeze into your elbow
- Don’t touch your face
- Practice social distancing
- Stay home if you can

Communication and collaboration are more vital than ever to provide on-going support and education during the time our buildings are closed. Important information will be shared through the following means: District Robo Calls/Texts, www.swcsk12.org, Twitter, and Facebook. Monday through Friday our buildings are staffed by administration and secretaries from 7:30-12:00. Below is important contact information:

District Office	Mrs. Donahue	716-484-1136	mdonahue@swcsk12.org
Instructional Services	Mrs. Moore	716-484-1136	mmoore@swcsk12.org
Transportation	Mr. Spacht	716-763-8391	jspacht@swcsk12.org
Special Education	Mrs. McCloskey	716-664-4675	amccloskey@swcsk12.org
Elementary School	Mr. Langworthy	716-664-1881	mlangworthy@swcsk12.org
Middle School	Mr. Rybicki	716-664-6270	rrybicki@swcsk12.org
High School	Mr. Cooper	716-664-6273	scooper@swcsk12.org
Asst. Principal	Mr. Kindberg	716-664-1881	mkindberg@swcsk12.org

Our transportation and food service departments are providing breakfast and lunch to any district family of school aged students who requests this service. This service is available to all students of the SWCS district ages 2-18. Please contact us to make any necessary arrangements.

Academically, we have transitioned to an on-line learning model. All students have been supplied with an individual electronic device. Teachers are using the following resources to communicate and connect with students: school email, Remind App, Office365. Our priority is to our students, please know:

- We miss you and want you to be engaged in learning
- We are going to make sure everyone will be successful
- We will be promoting and providing a continuum of education so that everyone will be successful

We are proud of our entire school community and we will succeed in this challenging time. We are here to help and please do not hesitate to contact us. Additional information will be delivered this week. Stay tuned and stay healthy!

Sincerely,

SWCS Administrative Team

#TeamSouthwestern

#TrojanTough