



The Tusker Tribune

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How SMS Would Do 'Remote Learning'

My Opinion of the Coronavirus

Forward in Excellence



Julie Gherardi
Assistant Superintendent
for Learning

March 11, 2020

Dear Parents/Guardians,

The Somers Central School District is committed to our students' health and well-being as well as their education and therefore, we are developing plans in the event that schools need to be closed for extended periods of time due to COVID-19. Somers teachers will spend time in the coming days preparing materials to engage students during an extended closure should the need arise.

For elementary students, maintaining a schedule of reading, writing and mathematics is of utmost importance. Our students have the ability to use programs such as Dreambox for Math, RAZ Kids for reading and Learning.com for computer literacy. You will also receive grade/class specific suggestions for daily reading, writing and mathematics practice along with explorations of topics in science and social studies.

Our secondary students will have the ability to keep learning through use of the learning management system, Schoology, already used by most of their teachers. More specific direction from their teachers will be found on their class Schoology sites.

Know that this interruption in teaching and learning can be minimized by these learning and communication tools until the students can safely return to school.

You will be receiving more specific information from your child's school principal in the event that an extended school closure is deemed necessary as we work in cooperation with our county and state health departments during this unprecedented situation.

Sincerely,

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Assistant Superintendent for Learning

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The Tusker Tribune is the online Somers Middle School Student Newspaper. It is published weekly (except during school vacations) on the Somers Middle School Website. It is entirely student-written by 6th, 7th and 8th grade students from:

**Somers Middle School, 250 Route 202,
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Any SMS student is eligible to write stories. If interested, please e-mail Co-editor Noah Volkman at volkman.noah@somersschools.org or Advisor Dean Pappas at DPappas@somersschools.org

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Tusker Tribune Staff

The coronavirus is obviously the new major pandemic that has been spreading all over the world. It is impossible to not hear about the coronavirus on the news if you turn it on.

When I first heard about the virus, I was scared about it and how it is affecting people. Now I am no longer frightened about this virus. After researching about it, I have learned that having a stable immune system and washing your hands is how you can prevent it and other diseases as well.

The news media I feel is scaring people which thus, makes them overreact. So far, the coronavirus has led to over 100,000 illnesses and over 3,000 deaths worldwide. Many of these deaths are from older people (60+) or people with compromised immune systems.

I have read that the coronavirus can resemble the flu. Some even say that the coronavirus may be worse than the flu. All these rumors are false because according to the article "how does the coronavirus compare with the flu" the flu has cause over 34 million illnesses, 350,000 hospitalization and 20,000 deaths in this season!



The coronavirus just made its impactful outbreak on the world but still there is only 100,000 illnesses and 3,000 deaths in the world! These statistics of the coronavirus are weak compared to the statistics of the flu. Which

concludes that there is nothing to be worried about in this world right now! It is just another virus that comes along in life which probably will have a cure in a year!

Of course, there are many reasons why you shouldn't worry about this virus however, you should still be cautious by not touching your face with your bare hands, wash your hands daily and as always eating healthy! Older people especially need to be careful because they are more vulnerable to this virus. Even though you may think you are healthy, your body is still old, and you can catch the virus very easily. Which possibly could lead to the end to your life.

To conclude, the coronavirus is only a deadly disease right now because we do not have any treatments or cures. Just like the common cold that once killed everyone who got it back then. The coronavirus is just like that. I'm sure that society will be fine and we will all get through this terrible virus as a whole!