



SUMTER SCHOOL DISTRICT

1345 Wilson Hall Road • PO Drawer 2039 • Sumter, South Carolina 29151-2039 • (T) 803.469.6900 • (F) 803.469.3769

March 25, 2020

Dear Sumter School District Families,

How do I begin to say thank you as the last ten days have been extremely challenging for every member of the school community. As we navigate through this new way of learning, we thank you for supporting us and for supporting your child as your role has also shifted.

Alternative Pathways to Learning

Through continued feedback from our stakeholders, we recognized the need to make adjustments along the way. As we move into the fourth quarter, we have modified the timeline in which we will deliver content for elementary, middle, and high schools beginning Monday, March 30, 2020. Instruction will take place Monday through Thursday, and each Friday will be utilized for teacher planning and make-up work time for students. Please also ensure your child is engaged in reading Monday through Friday. Schools will communicate their modified schedules to their families.

Please help support us by ensuring our children are staying abreast of their own learning. While this is not the traditional face to face learning style, learning should be continuous and ongoing. To assist with this process, teachers have dedicated virtual office hours to maintain contact with your child.

Technology Support

In order to maintain the continuity of instruction, the majority of our students have received their Chromebooks. This also serves as a reminder that the Chromebooks should be used by the student for instructional purposes only. If students violate the telecommunications acceptable use policy by accessing inappropriate content such as movies, video games, or inappropriate sites, they jeopardize the option of having the device, and the Chromebook may be blocked or revoked. We ask that you support us and monitor the activity on your child's device. Each Chromebook also has a tracking monitor. Please contact the school immediately if the Chromebook is misplaced or stolen. If a student is still in need of a Chromebook, schools are open from 9:00 AM-1:00 PM to assist with the retrieval.

Students and parents who need technology support from 8:00 AM to 4:00 PM may call 803-469-6900, extension 406. For IT support in Spanish please dial extension 211. If you encounter a technology issue after 4:00 PM or over the weekend, email a short description of the problem and a call back number to studentsupport@sumterschools.net.

Vision - Sumter School District will educate all students to embrace diversity, act responsibly, and contribute positively in a competitive, global society.

Mission - The mission of Sumter School District is to equip students to be responsible, successful, and productive citizens in a global society.

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Taking Care of Your Mental Health

Because this is a trying time for us all, we have also established a portal for our children to be able to reach out for additional support. The National Suicide Prevention Lifeline provides 24/7, free and confidential support for people in distress, prevention and crisis resources for you or your loved ones, and best practices for professionals. If you or someone you know is in need of emotional support, please call the Lifeline at 1-800-273-TALK or text TALK to 741741.

Distribution of Meals

As we continue to move forward, we have utilized data and evaluated the number of students who have retrieved meals during particular times during the day, which will now impact and shift the way in which we distribute meals. Beginning Monday, March 30, breakfast and lunch will be distributed throughout the community at the sites listed below. The retrieval of meals from individual school sites will no longer take place with the exception of our food hubs, which are Pocalla Springs Elementary, Sumter High, Crestwood High, and Hillcrest Middle from 9:00 AM-1:00 PM.

Distribution from the Hillcrest Hub

- Rembert Coalition Center 10:00 AM/ Rembert Post Office 11:00 AM
- Catchall Center 10:00 AM /Oakland Primary 10:45 AM/ Shaw Heights 11:15 AM
- Windsor City 10:00 AM/ Hunter's Crossing 10:45 AM
- Crescent Mobile Homes 10:00 AM/ American Mobile Homes 10:45 AM
- DeLaine Community Center 10:00 AM
- Whispering Meadows 10:00 AM/ Annie & Bush 10:30 AM/ Lee Altman 11:00 AM
- Frierson Mobile Homes 10:00 AM/ Ebenezer Center 10:45 AM (Van)

Distribution from the Pocalla Hub

- Wedgefield Post Office 10:15 AM
- Pioneer Drive 10:00 AM/ Country Springs 10:30 AM/ Havenwood 11:00 AM/ Pearson 11:20 AM/ Timmerman 11:35 AM
- New Bethel Church 10:00 AM/ A&J Mobile Homes 10:30 AM/ Pack Road 11:00 AM
- Pinewood Community Center 10:45 AM/ Manchester School 11:15 AM/ Pinewood Gardens 11:40 AM (Van)

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Distribution from the Crestwood Hub

- Shiloh Community Center 10:00 AM/ St. John's School 10:45 AM
- Homestead 10:00 AM/ Cotton Acres 10:45 AM/ Cannery Road 11:30 AM
- Dillion Park 10:00 AM/ Lantana Apts. 10:45 AM/ Chestnut Point 11:10 AM
- Iris Winds 10:00 AM/ Sherwood Forest 10:30 AM
- Salterstown Center 10:00 AM/ Falcon Crest 10:45 AM
- Mary McLeod Bethune Library 10:30 AM/ Third Street 11:00 AM (Van)

Distribution from the Sumter High Hub

- North Hope Center 10:00 AM/ Trinity Baptist Church 10:45 AM (Poplar Square and Miller Apts. will meet at Trinity)
- Birnie Hope Center 10:00 AM/ Jehovah Center 10:45 AM
- South Hope Center 10:00 AM/ Lemira Elementary 10:45 AM
- Crosswell Drive Elementary 10:30 AM/ Harmony Court 11:00 AM (Van)

Again, as we continue to refine our practices and continue to ensure we are meeting the needs of our students and our community, we thank you for your patience, flexibility, and feedback. One thing is for certain. We are all in this together, and we are better together!

For the Children,

Dr. Penelope E. Martin Knox

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