



Administrative Office

SUMTER SCHOOL DISTRICT

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December 8, 2020

Greetings Sumter School District Families:

As we continue to navigate through uncharted territory, it is most important that we continue to evaluate our data and our status as it pertains to reopening school. As we indicated in our previous communication, we continue to evaluate the COVID-19 numbers in our community as well as staff availability. We have reached a point in our process where we have to return to full virtual instruction beginning Monday, December 14, as it is most beneficial and prudent to the safety and well-being of our children and our staff. We will continue to monitor the COVID-19 data and staff availability in anticipation of a return to hybrid learning on Thursday, January 21.

In the meantime, students must continue to log on to their district-issued devices to participate in virtual instruction and complete assignments. Please note, MAP testing will be administered to assess growth and progress, and End-of-Course assessments, which are a major factor in the completion of a course, will also be administered. Both assessments must be completed independently. In addition, all athletic practices and competitions are temporarily suspended until further notice. Additional information is forthcoming from your child's school.

Please note the following:

- Students will receive live virtual instruction December 14-18.
- December 21-22 are designated independent virtual learning days, and students will receive pre-recorded lessons and assignments.
- All schools will be closed for the winter holidays December 23-January 1.
- Live virtual instruction will resume Monday, January 4.
- Schools are closed Monday, January 18 in observance of Martin Luther King, Jr. Day.
- Hybrid instruction will tentatively resume Thursday, January 21.
- Meals will be distributed as usual on Wednesday, December 16 from 9 AM-12 PM and again on Friday, December 18 for the holiday break. Meal distribution will resume Wednesday, January 6.

As we head into the holiday season, please remain cautious in order to protect yourself and your family as we work together to prevent the spread of COVID-19. Continue to follow safety guidelines established by the CDC, specifically staying six feet apart, wearing masks, and washing hands. Please monitor yourself for any COVID-19 related symptoms, and do not come to work if you are sick.

We thank you for your flexibility and understanding. This is a very difficult but necessary decision as we continue to keep the safety of our students and staff as our first priority. I wish you a happy holiday and a prosperous New Year.

For the Children,

Dr. Penelope E. Martin-Knox, Superintendent

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.

Sumter School District is an equal opportunity employer.