



SMYRNA SCHOOL DISTRICT

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Patrik D. Williams, Superintendent

March 23, 2020

Dear Smyrna School District Families:

I am writing to help all of our families understand what Governor Carney's letter this evening means for all of us. This is a unique period in all of our lives, and as we all navigate a path forward, it is helpful to understand exactly what education in the Smyrna School District will look like this spring:

1. All of our schools remain closed through Friday, May 15th. This means that we anticipate welcoming back students, teachers, paraprofessionals, and staff on Monday, May 18th.
2. During this interval through May 15th, we will continue to provide breakfast and lunch to our students at the advertised locations and during the appointed times. Please know that we will continue this service for our families until school re-opens.
3. Teams of educators at the district and school level will continue to prepare remote instructional plans for our students that reinforce skills and knowledge previously taught. This work will not be graded and will be made available both online and via hard copies. All instructional staff are gathering and creating various resources that will continuously be made available to our students during the time that schools are closed. We also anticipate that our teachers may be contacting their student families to offer encouragement during this anxious period.
4. Our school calendar will likely be extended for students and instructional staff through Tuesday, June 30th, but not beyond that date. Secretary of Education Susan Bunting will be recommending to the State Board of Education forgiveness of any days beyond June 30th.
5. When school resumes on May 15th, we will be providing our students with "instruction, wraparound services, extracurriculars, and sports experiences" to help institute as normal a school experience as possible. Planning will focus on these areas in the coming days so that by May 18th, we are ready to re-open our schools.
6. The state has submitted to the federal government a request to waive student assessment and accountability for the 2019-20 school year so that our students and teachers have the maximum amount of time available for instruction. We anticipate that this waiver will be approved in the next few days, and once approved, there will be no state assessment for students this year.

So, families, there it is. Now we all know that the rest of our academic year is divided into two distinct periods: remote education from March 13th through May 15th and traditional education from May 18th through June 30th. Thank you, all, for your patience. With this letter from Governor Carney, we can accelerate our multi-faceted response to this pandemic and make the necessary preparations to re-open our schools on May 18th. We will see you all soon.

Sincerely,

Patrik Williams
Superintendent

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