



**St. Mary's County Public Schools  
Central Administration**

**Office of the Superintendent**  
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Superintendent

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March 19, 2020

Good Evening, SMCPS Families:

These are unprecedented and challenging times. We hope you have been able to focus on your children and your family, keeping all close and safe. It is imperative that we all take universal precautions, practice social distancing, and stay informed.

One of our primary concerns with any school closure is food insecurity. One-third of our students receive Free and Reduced Meals daily and when schools are closed, they go hungry. To address this, we have opened four school sites and are providing breakfast, lunch, supper, and a snack in a grab-and-go pack. Meals are provided Monday through Friday from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at Greenview Knolls Elementary, Leonardtown Elementary, Lexington Park Elementary, and Margaret Brent Middle School. Community members can drive up and receive a package for each child 18 years or younger. For additional details, information is available on our website.

As of today, Thursday, March 19, 2020, schools are scheduled to reopen on Monday, March 30, 2020. When we reopen, we will look to the Maryland Department of Education (MSDE) for guidance on how any missed days may be made up. There is no additional information presently - as this is an evolving pandemic and we adhere to Executive Orders from Governor Hogan and decision made by Dr. Salmon, State Superintendent. If MSDE extends school closures beyond March 30, 2020, they will provide concrete, specific guidance regarding instructional access, state assessments, course credits, graduation, promotions, etc. Please know that we are making preparations for multiple scenarios.

For the present, SMCPS has a host of online resources that many of our students access for instruction and support. These resources can be found on our school system website, [www.smcps.org](http://www.smcps.org). On our home page, we have created a big purple button entitled "[Access Online Instructional Resources](#)" to take visitors directly to a host of programs and hyperlinks to educational resources. From that page, students can access **Clever**, which is a single-sign-on portal for all the online resources used by your child's school. This is the best place to go if you are looking for something developmentally and educationally appropriate for your child. Your children should be familiar with many of the resources - as they are often used in their classrooms.



Earlier today, a [survey](#) was sent to families. If you have not already done so, please take a few minutes to give us general information about internet access in your home. This will help us determine the various ways instructional support may be provided to our students in the coming days.

As decisions are made at the state level and we receive further direction from MSDE, we will provide updates. No matter what the next weeks bring, we know that we will get through it together.

Thank you and may you and your loved ones stay healthy.

Sincerely,



J. Scott Smith  
Superintendent of Schools