



St. Mary's County Public Schools

Central Administration

Office of the Superintendent
23160 Moakley Street, Suite 109
Leonardtown, Maryland 20650

Dr. J. Scott Smith
Superintendent

Phone: 301-475-5511 ext. 32178; Fax: 301-475-4270

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Dear SMCPS Community:

Today, Governor Hogan and State Superintendent Karen Salmon announced that all Maryland Public Schools will remain closed through April 24, 2020. As we go through the next four weeks, we will remain in daily communication with all our state partners to monitor the progress of all of the precautions we are taking to blunt the progress of the Coronavirus across Maryland. As of today, St. Mary's County has four confirmed cases.

Now that a decision has been made to keep schools closed for another four weeks, we will move to the next phase of our response. Teachers, along with other 10- and 11-month staff will be back at work on Monday, March 30 reporting remotely and teleworking. Directions will be shared with staff over the next two days as to what their telework schedule will look like next week and what professional development will be provided during that time.

By the end of next week, we will expand the use of the Edgenuity platform for all our secondary students and Imagine Learning for all our elementary students. We have spent the last week securing subscriptions for all students and organizing professional development for our teachers. These resources will provide continuous learning opportunities for each student - with a focus on promoting participation and progress in their specific grade-level content.

Students in homes without internet access or appropriate technology will have hard copies printed and made available. We are currently preparing system laptops for targeted distribution - starting with our seniors and then working down the grades. We currently have a 1 to 2 ratio for computers to students and no dedicated funds to replace devices if they are lost. We will be working with businesses across the county to identify free internet zones and options for families if connectivity is a barrier.

There will be much more information to come. Some communication will come from your principal, and next week, communication may come directly from your child's teacher. I urge you to visit our webpage and watch the YouTube broadcasts of your Board of Education and St. Mary's County Government. They are rich resources about what we are all doing to bend this Coronavirus curve.

One certainty we learned today is that there will be no Maryland Comprehensive Assessments this year. The United States Department of Education offered waivers and the Maryland State Department of Education requested one. So this is one thing we can set aside until 2021.

Thank you for your patience and understanding as we work through these uncharted waters. No matter what, we will do everything we can to keep us all moving forward.

Sincerely,



J. Scott Smith
Superintendent of Schools

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