



Dear parents and guardians,

This afternoon, Maryland Governor Larry Hogan and State Superintendent Dr. Karen Salmon announced that all Maryland public schools will remain closed through **Friday, May 15, 2020**. This announcement most directly impacts our seniors - as their instructional year was scheduled to conclude on May 17, 2020. Considering this, the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) waived the following for the class of 2020: all state assessment requirements, including Bridge Projects, Service Learning requirements, and work based experience hours. All other graduation requirements remain unchanged. Our high school staff will work with each senior to help them successfully navigate this last month with St. Mary's County Public Schools (SMCPS). We realize this moving timeline is exceptionally frustrating, and we are all grappling with the challenges it presents.

SMCPS will continue our Continuity of Learning Plan through the online learning platforms, Edgenuity and Imagine Learning. The modules assembled there cover fourth marking period learning standards. To date, almost 9 out of 10 students have logged on and started working on the instructional materials that are organized on those sites.

For students without internet access, printed packets of instructional materials have been mailed directly to their homes. We have sent almost 2,000 individual packets to students with fourth marking period assignments for each of their enrolled courses. As a reminder, printed packets are only available for students who are not able to access the online platforms.

We recognize that an extended school closure may cause stress and anxiety for students and their families. Our teachers, counselors, and administrators have been making contact with each student this past week as our staff remains committed to supporting families, maintaining connections, and monitoring participation and progress in the instructional program.

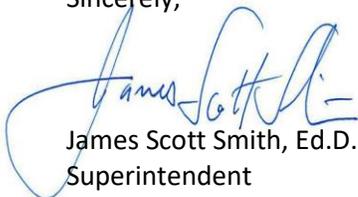
Meals will continue to be provided at the same four sites: Greenview Knolls Elementary, Lexington Park Elementary, Leonardtown Elementary, and Margaret Brent Middle School. Grab-and-go meals can be picked up for each child under 18, and include a breakfast, lunch, supper, and a snack.

Please look to our website for additional information. Follow us on social media and make sure to stay up on the emails being sent out by school staff.

May you and your loved ones stay healthy and hopeful. We will all get through this.

Thank you for your ongoing patience and understanding.

Sincerely,



James Scott Smith, Ed.D.
Superintendent