

April 7, 2020

Dear Parents,

Later this week, we will be observing Spring Break, April 10 through April 13. However, you may continue to encourage your child to interact with enrichment activities during this time. Starting April 14, SASD will transition to Planned Instruction and the start of the 4th Marking Period.

Teachers have been preparing digital content, based on PA Academic Standards, your child will be required to complete each week while schools remain closed. It is vital that parents encourage and support students to complete work and continue learning during this unusual time. We also suggest setting up a written schedule or routine to complete school work. Through encouragement by parents and teachers, we can ensure that our students will continue to grow academically and be prepared for their future.

We recognize that families are concerned not only about education but many other unique issues due to this pandemic. Many of you are risking your own health while working in the medical field or law enforcement or for a life-sustaining business. Our community can never repay you. We know many of you are at home, watching younger children while also trying to assist your school age children with assignments. It's not an easy task but we will get through this together!

Teachers are preparing lessons and activities for a shortened academic day. Student expectations will vary by age and grade but generally, lessons should not exceed 120 minutes each day at the elementary level and 180 minutes each day at the secondary level. Grading procedures will also be adjusted during this unprecedented school closure. Your child's Principal will share more specific information in the coming days and we will also post the District's Continuity of Education Plan on the district website. Please be patient with your child and teachers – this is new to everyone. Remember that any frustrations you encounter at home, your child's teacher likely encounters at school. Communicate issues and concerns constructively so that we can all work together.

We are all making the best of a terrible situation. Thank you for your support and for helping ensure your child will continue to make academic progress. Remember that your child's teacher is the first level of academic support, but we have many other supports available. If you need assistance of any kind, we are here for you. Starting April 14th, we will activate a district support phone line at 717-530-2818. This line will be closely monitored and voicemails will be directed to a district employee who will return your call.

To summarize, be supportive – work with your child and learn together; be persistent – ensure your child continues academic work; be patient – this is new for your child and teachers; be flexible – we all have to adapt during these uncertain times.

Sincerely,

Dr. Chris Suppo

Superintendent

